

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer and Advanced Interpretation

May 2025

Christopher Putnam, OD, PhD, FAAO

1

## THE RELATIVE SIZE OF PARTICLES

From the COVID-19 pandemic to the U.S. West Coast wildfires, some of the biggest threats now are also the most microscopic. A particle needs to be 10 microns ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) or less before it can be inhaled into your respiratory tract. But just how small are these specks? Here's a look at the relative sizes of some familiar particles >

**HUMAN HAIR** 50-180 $\mu\text{m}$  >  
FOR SCALE

**FINE BEACH SAND** 90 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**GRAIN OF SALT** 60 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**WHITE BLOOD CELL** 25 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**GRAIN OF POLLEN** 15 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**DUST PARTICLE (PM<sub>10</sub>)** <10 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**RED BLOOD CELL** 7-8 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**RESPIRATORY DROPLETS** 5-10 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**DUST PARTICLE (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)** 2.5 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**BACTERIUM** 1-3 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**WILDFIRE SMOKE** 0.4-0.7 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**CORONAVIRUS** 0.1-0.5 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**T4 BACTERIOPHAGE** 0.225 $\mu\text{m}$  >

**ZIKA VIRUS** 0.045 $\mu\text{m}$  >

Pollen can trigger allergic reactions and hay fever—which 1 in 5 Americans experience every year. Source: Harvard Health

The visibility limits for what the naked eye can see hovers around 10-40 $\mu\text{m}$ .

Respiratory droplets have the potential to carry smaller particles within them, such as dust or coronavirus.

Wildfire smoke can persist in the air for several days, and even months.

**SD-OCT Resolution Limits** (Red arrow)

**SS-OCT Resolution Limits** (Green arrow)

**AOSLO Resolution Limits** (Blue arrow)

SOURCES: Classen; Daniel Lewenberg; EPA; Francine Tilson; News Medical; Science Direct; SCMP Susan Spaldowski; Petroski; U.S. Dept. of Energy  
COLLABORATORS, RESEARCH | WRITING: Carrol Ang, Brian Ghosh | DESIGN | ART DIRECTION: Hannah Schell

**VISUAL CAPITALIST** [/visualcapitalist](#) [@visualcap](#) [visualcapitalist.com](#)

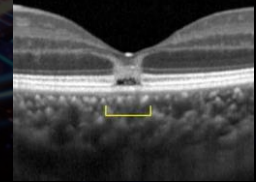
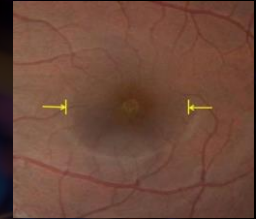
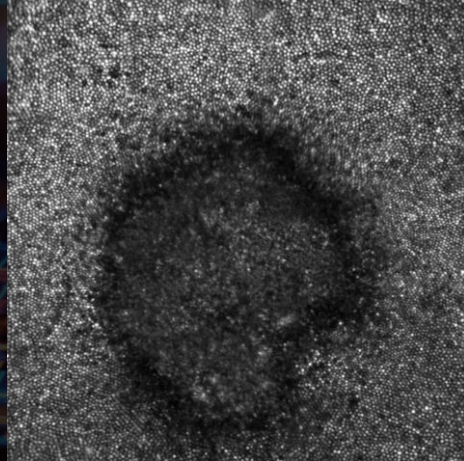
8

## Clinical Retinal Imaging

### *Solar Retinopathy viewed through Adaptive Optics*

Photographic Image of Solar Eclipse

AO Scanning Ophthalmoscopy



Acute Solar Retinopathy Imaged With Adaptive Optics, OCT and En Face Optical Coherence Tomography  
*JAMA Ophthalmol* (2017)

9

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### *Spectral Domain vs. Swept Source*

Spectral Domain

$\lambda$ : 840nm

Charge-coupled device (CCD)

Resolution limits: 3-5 $\mu$ m

A-scan speed: ~50K/sec

B-scan field: 6mm

Resolution depth: RPE

Swept Source

$\lambda$ : 1050nm

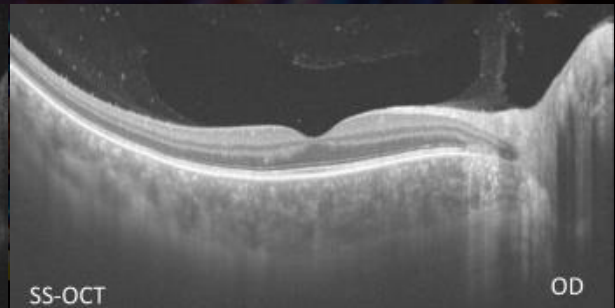
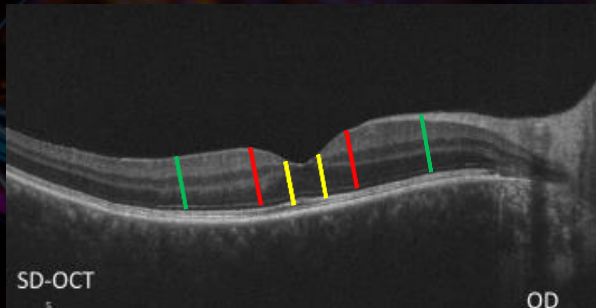
Photodetector

Resolution limits: 1-3 $\mu$ m

A-scan speed: ~100K/sec

B-scan field: 12mm

Resolution depth: choriocapillaris to scleral boundary



12

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Spectral Domain vs. Swept Source

Model (Manufacturer)	Cirrus HD-OCT 5000 (Carl Zeiss Meditec) <sup>1</sup>	Plex Elite (Carl Zeiss Meditec) <sup>1</sup>	3D OCT-1 Maestro2 (Topcon) <sup>2</sup>	Triton (Topcon) <sup>2</sup>	Spectralis 2nd and 3rd Generation (Heidelberg) <sup>3</sup>	Spectralis OCT-A (Heidelberg) <sup>3</sup>	iVue80 Optovue (Visionix) <sup>4</sup>	Optovue Avanti with Angiovue (Visionix) <sup>4</sup>
SD-OCT or SS-OCT?	SD-OCT	SS-OCT	SD-OCT	SS-OCT	SD-OCT	SD-OCT***	SD-OCT	SD-OCT
Scanning Speed (A-scans per second)	27,000-68,000*	100,000-200,000	50,000	100,000	85,000**	85,000	80,000	70,000
Axial Resolution (µm in tissue)	5	6.3	6	8	Optical: 7 Digital: 3.9	3.9	5	5
Imaging Modes	SD-OCT, cSLO	SS-OCT, OCT-A, LSO, CCD camera	SD-OCT widefield, color fundus, red-free fundus, IR fundus, enhanced IR fundus and external eye photography	SS-OCT, color fundus, red-free fundus, IR fundus	SD-OCT, cSLO	OCT-A	SD-OCT wide-field	SD-OCT widefield, OCT-A, enhanced-depth imaging
SD-OCT Normative Database: Number of subjects	284 RNFL study 282 macula, ganglion cell, ONH study		399		201 (RNFL thickness)		480	
SD-OCT Normative Database: Ethnicity	43% Caucasian 24% Asian 18% African American 12% Hispanic 1% Indian 2% Mixed ethnicity		59% Caucasian 20% African American 18% Hispanic/Latino 3% Other		European descent		47% Caucasian 19% Asian 10% African 15% Hispanics 8% Indian 1% Other	

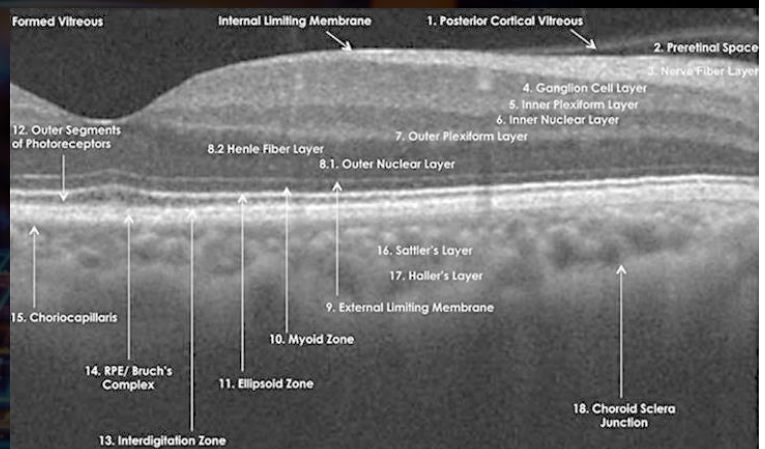
13

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Anatomic and Histologic Landmarks

#### 2014 International OCT (INOCT) Panel

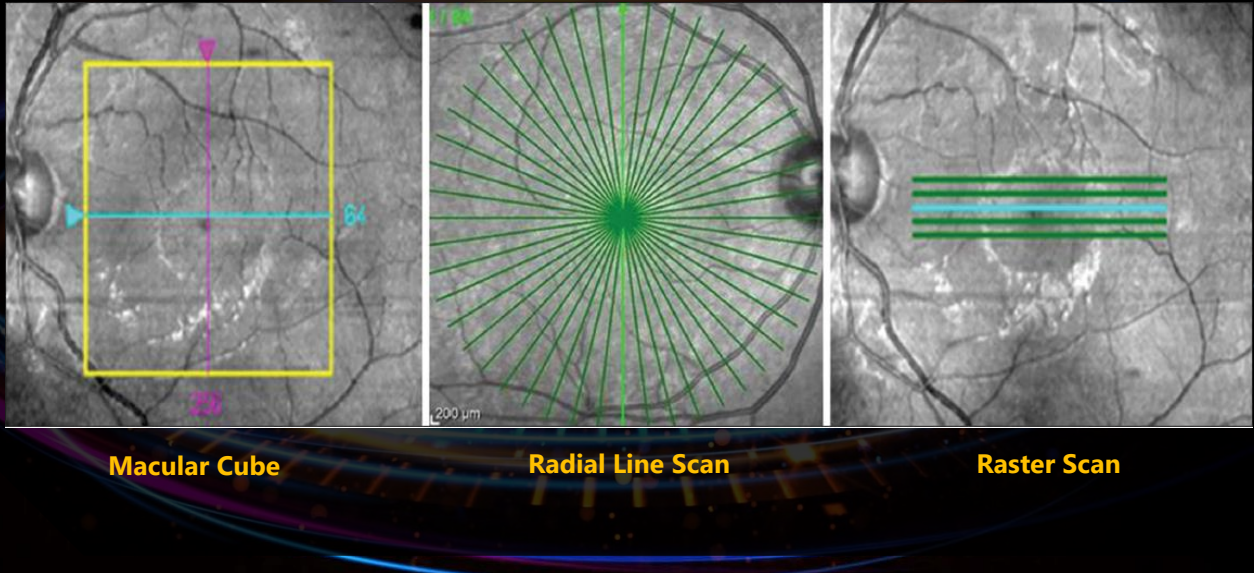
- Bands, Zones and Layers
- Inner retina = ILM through INL
  - Hyper-reflective bands = Interface junctions
    - Posterior cortical vitreous
    - ILM
    - RNFL
    - IPL
  - Hypo-reflective bands = Nuclear layers
    - GCL
    - INL
- Outer retina = OPL through RPE
  - Hyper-reflective bands = Interface junctions
    - OPL
    - ELM (Muller cells + PR inner segments)
    - EZ (PR axons)
    - Interdigitation
    - RPE
  - Hypo-reflective bands = Nuclear layers
    - Henle fiber layer
    - ONL
    - PR outer segments



14

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

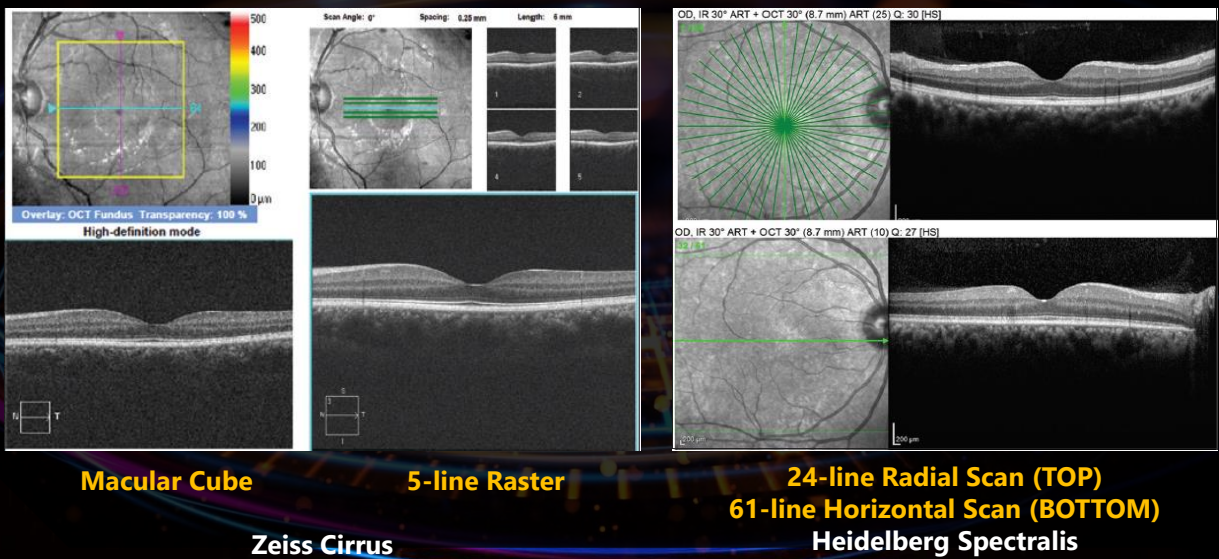
## Common OCT Measurement Protocols



15

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

## Common OCT Measurement Protocols



16

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

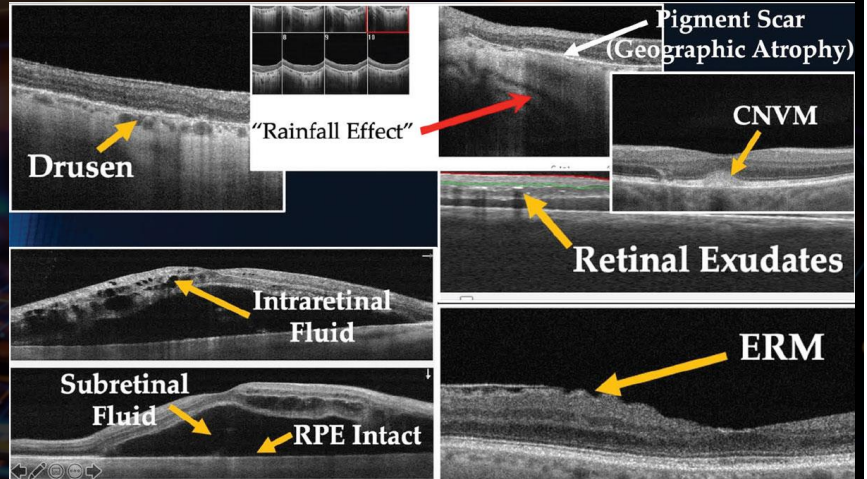
## Common Causes of Abnormal Reflectivity

### Reduced Reflectivity

- Fluid
- Retinal edema
- Subretinal fluid
- Sub-RPE fluid

### Increased Reflectivity

- Hard exudates
- Calcification
- Hemorrhages
- Fibrosis
- Epiretinal/vitreous membrane
- CNV
- Hyperplasia
- RPE atrophy
  - Sub-RPE Hyper-reflectivity



17

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

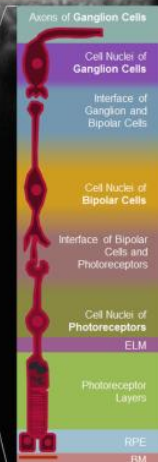
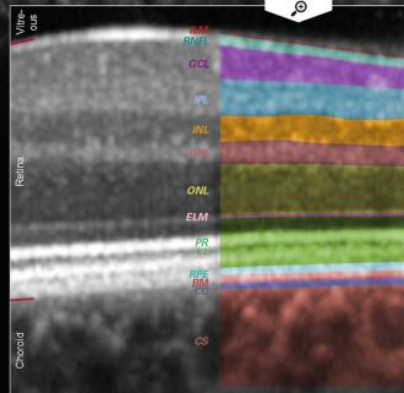
## SD-OCT Cross-sections Based on Retinal Anatomy

Retinal Layers	
Abbr.	Name
ILM	Internal Limiting Membrane
RNFL	Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer
GCL	Ganglion Cell Layer
IPL	Inner Plexiform Layer
INL	Inner Nuclear Layer
OPL	Outer Plexiform Layer
ONL	Outer Nuclear Layer
ELM	External Limiting Membrane
PR1/2	Photoreceptor Layers
RPE	Retinal Pigment Epithelium
BM	Bruch's Membrane
CC	Choriocapillaris
CS	Choroidal Stroma

Ganglion Cell Complex (GCC)

Henle Fiber Layer (PR axons)

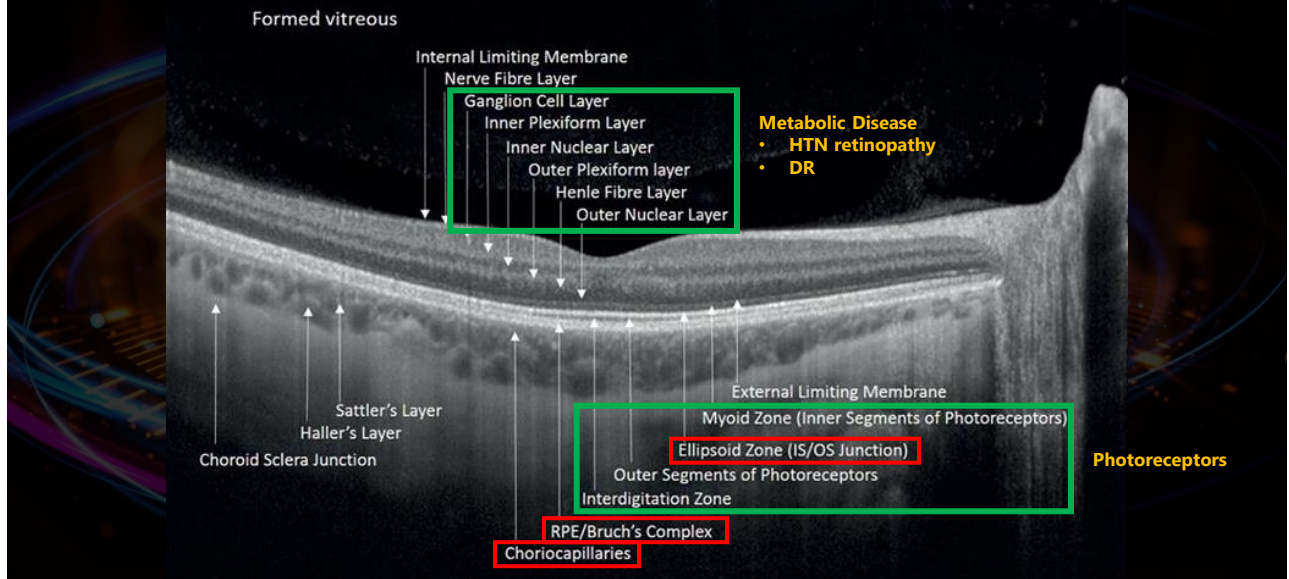
AMD Ground Zero



18

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### SD-OCT Cross-sections Based on Retinal Anatomy

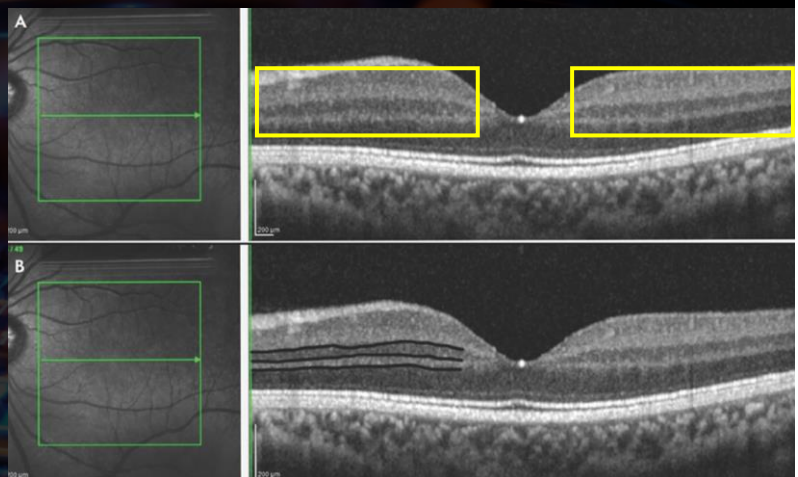


19

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### SD-OCT Disorganization of Retinal Inner Layers (DRIL)

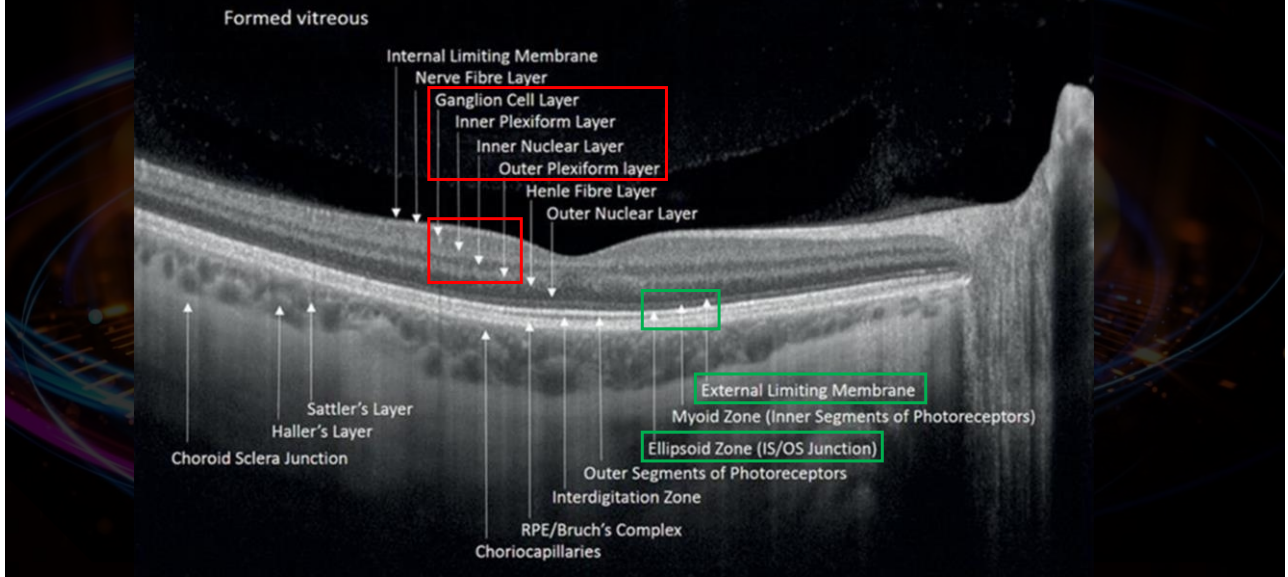
- Healthy retinal tissue has an orderly, laminated structure highlighted by varying reflectivity patterns on SD-OCT
- **Loss of inner retinal laminations and boundaries between the layers**
  - **Boundaries of the INL, OPL, and GCL-IPL complex within central 1,000-3,000 $\mu$ m**
- Recent studies have compared areas of DRIL to OCTA imaging
  - **Associated with areas of ischemic damage correlated to areas of absent superficial, middle and deep capillary plexus flow**
- Correlation has also been made between DRIL and other OCT findings
  - **Enlargement of FAZ**
  - **Disruption of the EZ and ELM**



20

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### *SD-OCT Disorganization of Retinal Inner Layers (DRIL)*



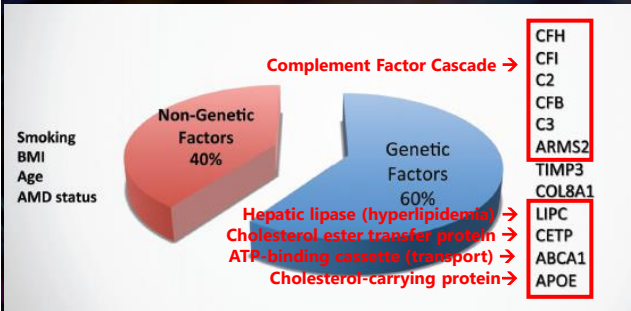
21

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- **Age-Related Macular Degeneration**
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinal Vein Occlusions
- Central Serous Chorioretinopathy
- Macular Hole
  - FTH
  - LMH
- Autoimmune Retinopathy
  - Paraneoplastic syndromes

23

# Age-Related Macular Degeneration Epidemiology



- Leading cause of blindness >55yrs in US
  - 2020: ~11 million have AMD findings
  - 2050: ~22 million (projected)
- **More cases of AMD (~11M) than POAG (~2.7M) and DR (~4.8M) combined**
- Approximately 1 in 14 persons **>40yrs** has **some degree of macular degeneration**
  - Affects 1 in 5 families
- **Strongest genetic linkage of any major disease**

25

# Age Related Macular Degeneration AREDS Criterion

**\*Drusen or GA within 2DD of fovea**

**\*\*Pigment abnormalities within 1DD of fovea**

**\*\*\*Advanced AMD**  
1) GA involving fovea  
2) CNVM development

FIRST EYE (Must have VA >20/32, no advanced AMD and no disqualifying lesions)				SECOND EYE
AMD Category	Drusen Size <sup>□</sup>	Drusen Area <sup>□</sup>	Pigment Abnormalities <sup>□</sup>	
1	None or <63um	<125um diameter	None	Same as 1 <sup>st</sup>
2	<63um	>125um diameter	Absent or Present <b>WITHOUT GA</b>	Same as 1 <sup>st</sup> or Category 1
	<b>&gt;63um, &lt;125um</b>	<b>&gt;1 druse</b>		
3a	None if pigment abnormalities	<b>&gt;360um diameter (if soft drusen present)</b> <b>&gt;656um diameter (if soft drusen absent)</b>	Absent or Present <b>WITHOUT central GA</b>	Same as 1 <sup>st</sup> or Category 1,2
	<b>&gt;63um, &lt;125um</b>	<b>At least 1 druse</b>		
4a	None if GA present	Category 1,2 or 3	Advanced AMD <sup>□□□</sup>	

26



## Prevalence of undiagnosed AMD in primary eye care

*JAMA ophthalmology (2017) 135(6):570-575*

### RESULTS

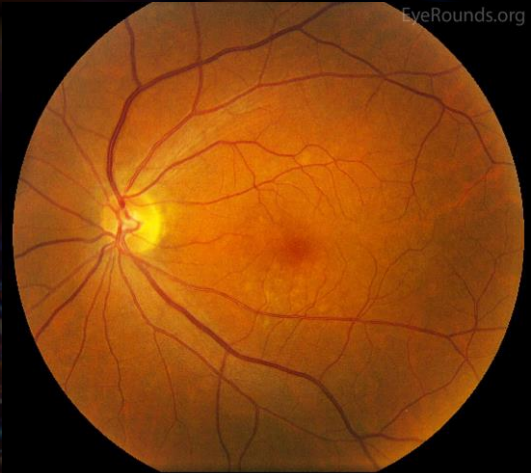
Sample consisted of 1288 eyes from 644 participants with mean age  $69 \pm 6.1$  years seen by 31 primary eye care OMDs or ODs

- **320 (25%) had AMD despite no diagnosis of AMD in the medical record**
  - 32 (10%) had hyperpigmentation
  - 43 (13%) had hypopigmentation
  - 249 (78%) had small drusen
- **250 (78%) had intermediate drusen → AREDS 2 criteria**
- **96 (30%) had large drusen → AREDS 3 criteria**

**\*\*Findings were not different for OMD vs. OD**

### CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

- **~25% of normal eyes based on DFE had macular characteristics of AMD revealed by fundus photography**
- **~30% undiagnosed AMD had large drusen treatable with nutritional supplements had it been diagnosed**
- **Improved AMD detection strategies may be needed as more effective treatment strategies become available**



27

## Prevalence of undiagnosed AMD in primary eye care

*JAMA ophthalmology (2017) 135(6):570-575*

### RESULTS

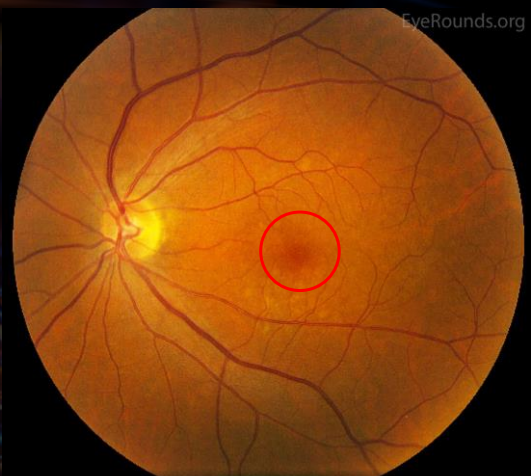
Sample consisted of 1288 eyes from 644 participants with mean age  $69 \pm 6.1$  years seen by 31 primary eye care OMDs or ODs

- **320 (25%) had AMD despite no diagnosis of AMD in the medical record**
  - 32 (10%) had hyperpigmentation
  - 43 (13%) had hypopigmentation
  - 249 (78%) had small drusen
- **250 (78%) had intermediate drusen → AREDS 2 criteria**
- **96 (30%) had large drusen → AREDS 3 criteria**

**\*\*Findings were not different for OMD vs. OD**

### CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

- **~25% of normal eyes based on DFE had macular characteristics of AMD revealed by fundus photography**
- **~30% undiagnosed AMD had large drusen treatable with nutritional supplements had it been diagnosed**
- **Improved AMD detection strategies may be needed as more effective treatment strategies become available**



28

## Prevalence of undiagnosed AMD in primary eye care

*JAMA ophthalmology (2017) 135(6):570-575*

### RESULTS

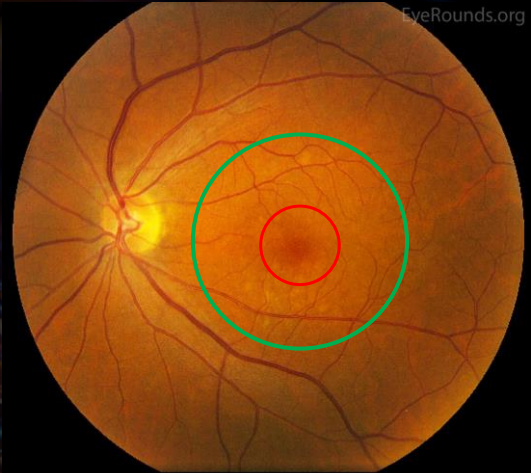
Sample consisted of 1288 eyes from 644 participants with mean age  $69 \pm 6.1$  years seen by 31 primary eye care OMDs or ODs

- **320 (25%) had AMD despite no diagnosis of AMD in the medical record**
  - 32 (10%) had hyperpigmentation
  - 43 (13%) had hypopigmentation
  - 249 (78%) had small drusen
- **250 (78%) had intermediate drusen → AREDS 2 criteria**
- **96 (30%) had large drusen → AREDS 3 criteria**

**\*\*Findings were not different for OMD vs. OD**

### CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

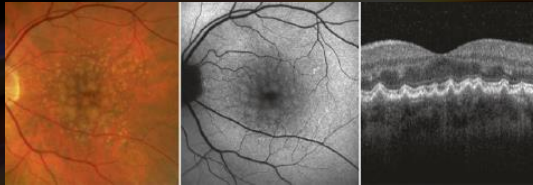
- **~25% of normal eyes based on DFE had macular characteristics of AMD revealed by fundus photography**
- **~30% undiagnosed AMD had large drusen treatable with nutritional supplements had it been diagnosed**
- **Improved AMD detection strategies may be needed as more effective treatment strategies become available**



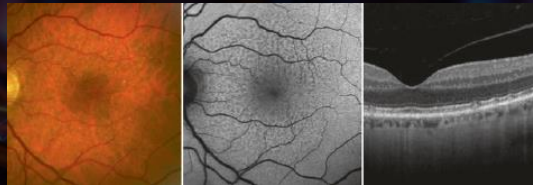
29

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer Early AMD Comparative Imaging

### Soft Drusen



### Reticular Pseudodrusen



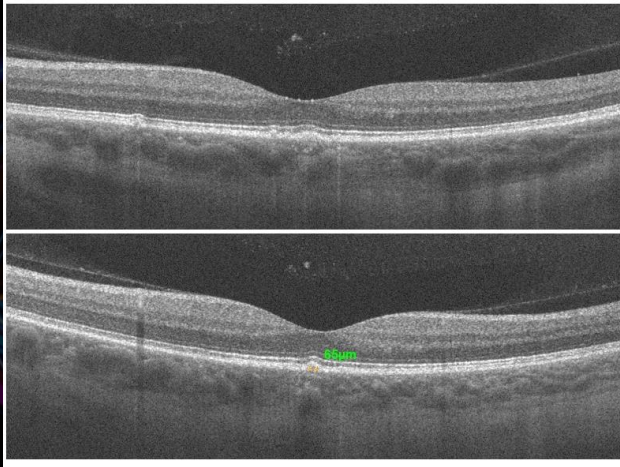
### Cuticular Drusen



30

## Subclinical AMD Diagnosis

### *SD-OCT Drusen Identification and Measurement* - AREDS Category 2



#### AREDS 1

<63µm within 2DD of fovea

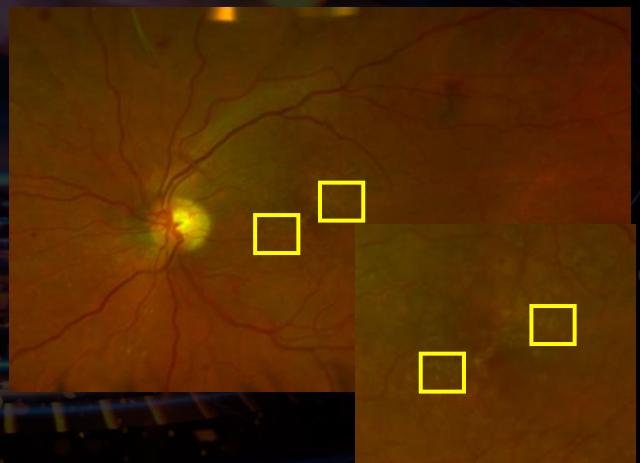
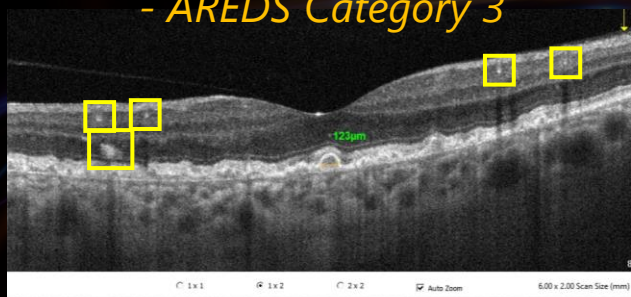
#### AREDS 2

>63µm and <125µm within 2DD of fovea

31

## Subclinical AMD Diagnosis

### *SD-OCT Drusen Identification and Measurement* - AREDS Category 3

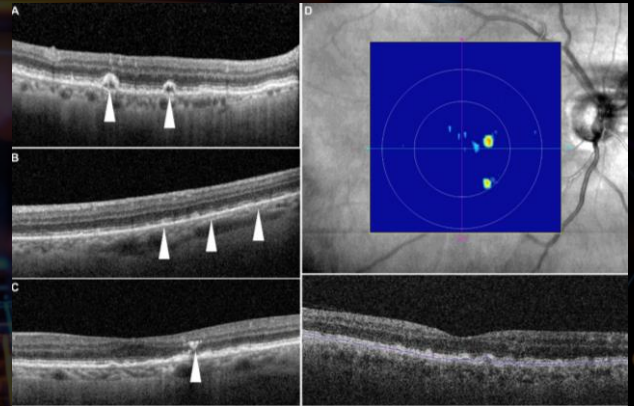


32

## Subclinical AMD Diagnosis

### *Clinical Predictors of Advanced AMD Progression*

- Visual loss (BCVA and CS)
- Reticular pseudodrusen
- Drusen load
- **Hyper-reflective foci**
- **RPE hypo-reflectance**
- **Nascent geographic atrophy**
- **Sub-RPE hyper-reflective columns**



34

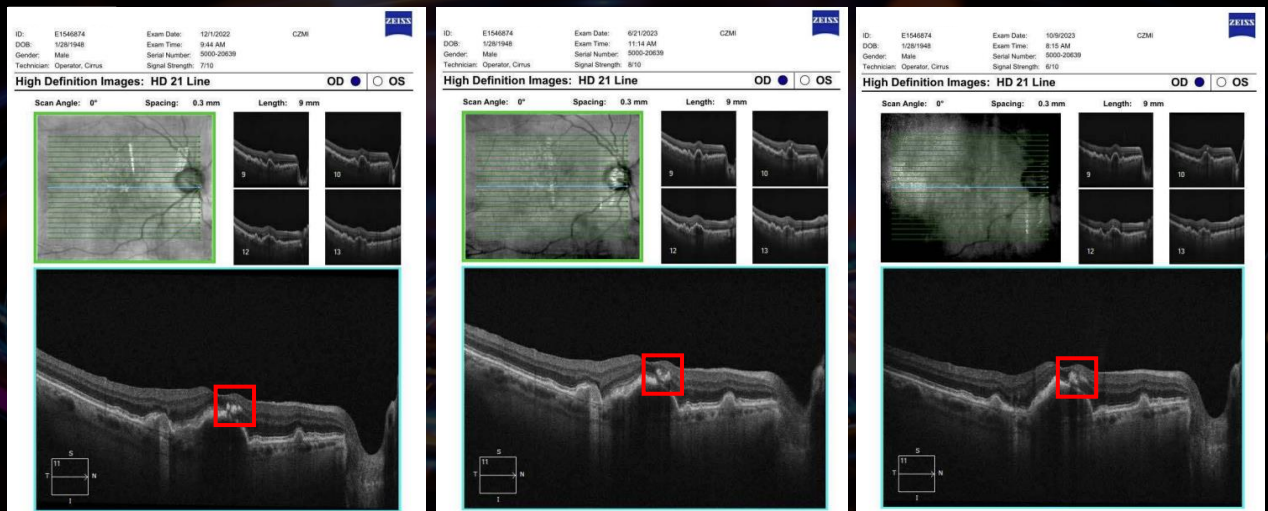
## Subclinical AMD Diagnosis

### *Rapid Conversion of Advanced AMD to Geographic Atrophy*

Dec2022 BCVA 20/30-

Jun2023 BCVA 20/30-

Oct2023 BCVA 20/30-



35

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

## Intermediate AMD Comparative Imaging

Relationship between the distribution of intra-retinal hyper-reflective foci and iAMD progression

*Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol* (2023) 261(12):3437-3447

### Methods

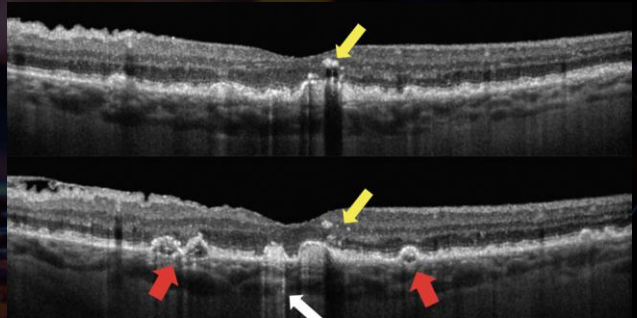
- Macular SD-OCTs of subjects with 2 years of follow-up were evaluated for the presence of iAMD and IHRF at baseline
- Number of IHRF in each slab at baseline and change in IHRF correlated with progression to late AMD at 2 years

### Results

- Among 71 patients with iAMD, **43% of had evidence of both iAMD and IHRF at baseline**
  - **19% showed progression to late AMD after 2 years**
- **Presence of IHRF in outer retina was independently associated with a significant risk of progression to late AMD**

### Conclusions

- **Risk of progression to late AMD appears to be significantly associated with the distribution and extent of IHRF in the outermost retinal layers**



**Yellow Arrows = Hyperreflective foci**  
**Red Arrows = Irregular drusen/non-uniform reflectivity**  
**White Arrows = Hyperreflective columns**

36

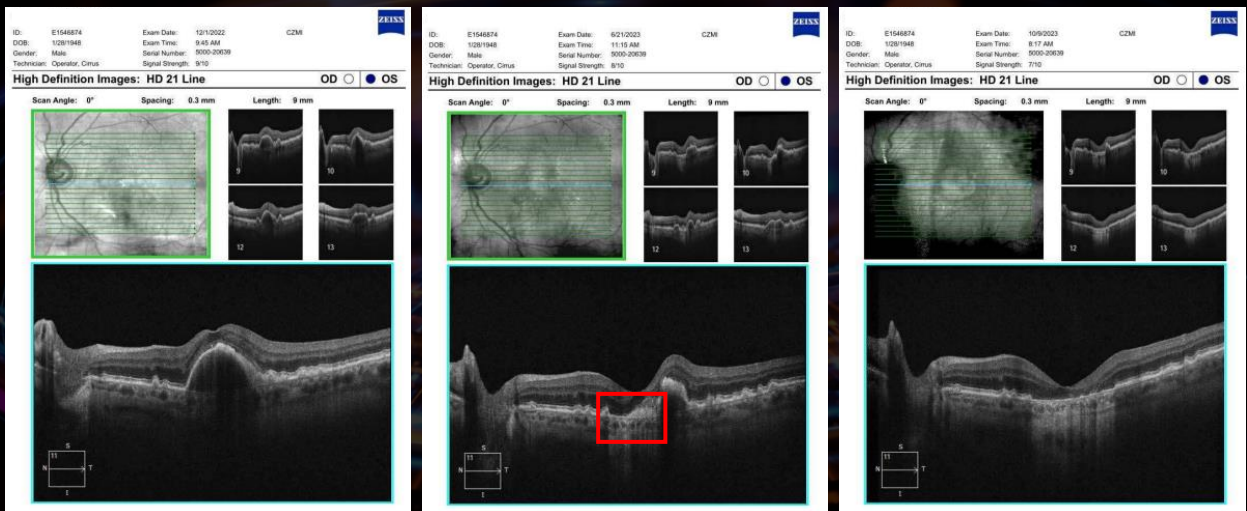
# Subclinical AMD Diagnosis

## Rapid Conversion of Advanced AMD to Geographic Atrophy

Dec2022 **BCVA 20/30**

Jun2023 **BCVA 20/200**

Oct2023 **BCVA 20/100**



37

# Take Home Points

## SD-OCT – AMD

- ~85% of AMD patients have atrophic AMD
- nvAMD is responsible for majority of severe VA loss
- Primary risk factors for advanced AMD:
  - Increasing age
  - Northern European ancestry
  - Genetic factors
    - **Routine genetic testing not recommended at this time**
  - Cigarette smoking (modifiable)
  - AREDS2 supplementation should be considered in patients with intermediate or advanced AMD
    - **(-) evidence to support use in < iAMD**
    - **(-) evidence of any prophylactic value**
  - **HOWEVER...**
    - **Retinal carotenoid and polyphenol supplementation DOES show clinically-validated improvement in early AMD**
- FA, OCT and OCTA are useful diagnostic tests in detect of new or recurrent neovascular activity
- Early detection and prompt treatment improves the visual outcome
- Intravitreal anti-VEGF represents the first line treatment of nvAMD

### Putnam's Clinical Practice Guideline – AMD Worksheet

- **Hx**
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> degree relative
  - o Age of onset
- **Mix + Lifestyle**
  - o Smoking
- **RDS**
  - o Collagen vascular disease (RA / SLE / sarcoid / Crohn's / UC / psoriasis)
  - o Thyroid condition
  - o Vascular disease (DM / HTN / dyslipidemia)
- **Laboratory testing**
  - o Lipid panel (HDL/LDL + total cholesterol + triglycerides)
  - o Genetic Testing – Arctic Medical Labs
    - **apoE / CFH / ARMS2**
- **B/P**
  - o Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) =  $(\text{systolic} + (2 \times \text{diastolic})) / 3$
  - o Mean Ophthalmic Perfusion Pressure =  $[(0.67 \times \text{MAP}) - \text{IOP}]$ 
    - Difference between diurnal and nocturnal MAP is nocturnal hypotension
- **BCVA**
  - o ETDRS
  - o Pelli-Robson or PV 5%
- **AdaptDx**
  - o 6.5min screener
    - **5-7 year** precursor to clinical AMD
- **Cone Contrast Testing (CCT) Threshold**
- **Baseline Imaging**
  - o Full color fundus
  - o FAF (UWF, if possible)
  - o OCT S-line Raster
    - Progressive thinning of GC-IPL layers
    - Identification of changes @ Bruch's or drusen formation @ RPE
  - o OCTA
    - Create baseline vascular appearance
    - Identify early neovascularization (deep plexus / choriocapillaris / Bruch's / intraretinal)
- **Oral Supplementation**
  - o Lutein (20mg) and Zeaxanthin (5mg) and meso-zeaxanthin (10mg)
    - AREDS2 (if indicated)
  - o  $\Omega$ -3 2000mg (1:1 DHA + EPA)
  - o Trans-resveratrol 1000mg QD
  - o Curcumin 1000mg QD

39

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- **Diabetic Retinopathy**
- Retinal Vein Occlusions
- Central Serous Chorioretinopathy
- Macular Hole
  - FTH
  - LMH
- Autoimmune Retinopathy
  - Paraneoplastic syndromes

40

# Diabetic Retinopathy Epidemiology

## Prevalence of DR in the US in 2021

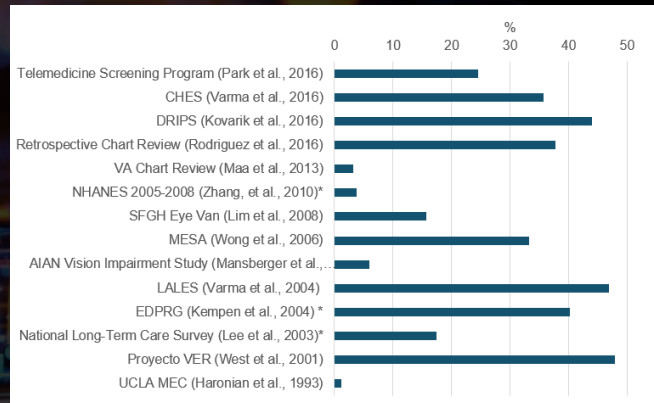
*JAMA Ophthalmol* (2023) 141(8):747-754

### Main Outcomes and Measures

- DR
  - Any retinopathy in the presence of diabetes, including NPDR (mild, moderate, or severe), PDR or macular edema
- VTDR
  - Severe NPDR retinopathy, PDR, PRP scars or macular edema

### Results

- **Estimated 9.6 million people living with DR**
  - **DR prevalence rate of 26%**
  - **VTDR prevalence rate of 5%**
- Prevalence of DR and VTDR varied by demographic characteristics and geography.



41

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer Early Diabetic Retinopathy

## Retinal Layers Changes in Human Preclinical and Early Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Support Early Retinal Neuronal and Müller Cells Alterations

*J Diab Res* (2018) Article ID 905058

### Methods

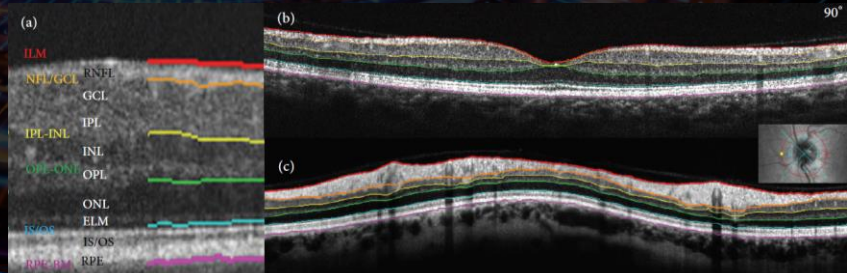
- 74 diabetics and 50 controls underwent stereoscopic fundus photography and SD-OCT. After automatic retinal segmentation into 5 layers, the thickness of each layer was calculated, and values compared among groups

### Results

- **Of 74 DM: 30 patients had (-)DR and 44 patients (+)NPDR**
  - **Significant increase of IPL and INL found in DR eyes versus controls**
  - **Significant decrease RNFL and macular RGC in DR**
  - **Peripapillary area showed no differences between DR and controls**

### Conclusion

- **Decreased RNFL thickness with increased INL/OPL thickness in DM +/- DR suggest early alterations within inner retina**
- **Outer retina appears unaffected in early stages of DM**



42

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer Early Diabetic Retinopathy

### Disorganization of the Retinal Inner Layers as a Predictor of BCVA in Eyes With Center-Involved DME

*JAMA Ophthalmol* (2016) 132(11): 1309-1316

#### Design, Setting, and Participants

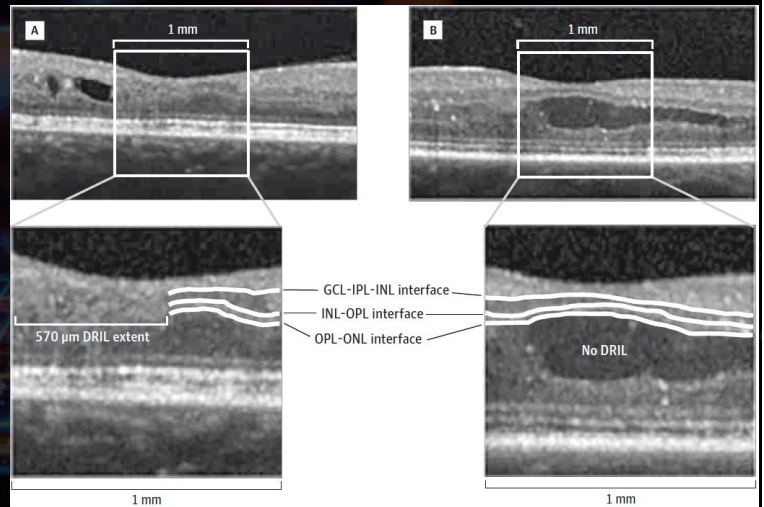
- Demographics, VA, and SD-OCT images from 96 subjects with DM and baseline CI-DME
  - Baseline
  - 4-months
  - 8-months

#### Results

- **Greater DRIL extent at baseline correlated with worse baseline VA**
- **DRIL and ELM disruption was predictive of an 8-month VA change**
  - **Each 300- $\mu$ m DRIL increase within 4mos predicted 1-line VA decline**

#### Conclusions

- **DRIL in 1-mm foveal area associated with VA**
- **Change in DRIL predicts future change in VA**



43

## Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography Primer Diabetic Retinopathy Management (2019 AAO PPP)

### Diabetic Retinopathy (Management Recommendations)

Severity of Retinopathy	Management Recommendations for Patients with Diabetes				
	Presence of Macular Edema	Follow-up (Months)	Panretinal Photocoagulation (Scatter) Laser	Focal and/or Grid Laser*	Intravitreal Anti-VEGF Therapy
Normal or minimal NPDR	No	12	No	No	No
Mild NPDR	No	12	No	No	No
	ME	4-6	No	No	No
Moderate NPDR	CSME <sup>†</sup>	1*	No	Sometimes	Sometimes
	No	6-12	No	No	No
	ME	3-6	No	No	No
Severe NPDR	CSME <sup>†</sup>	1*	No	Sometimes	Sometimes
	No	4	Sometimes	No	No
	ME	2-4	Sometimes	No	No
Non-high-risk PDR	CSME <sup>†</sup>	1*	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
	No	4	Sometimes	No	No
	ME	4	Sometimes	No	No
High-risk PDR	CSME <sup>†</sup>	1*	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
	No	4	Recommended	No	Considered
	ME	4	Recommended	Sometimes	Usually
	CSME <sup>†</sup>	1*	Recommended	Sometimes	Usually

Anti-VEGF = anti-vascular endothelial growth factor; CSME = clinically significant macular edema; ME = non-clinically significant macular edema; NPDR = nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; PDR = proliferative diabetic retinopathy

\* Adjunctive treatments that may be considered include intravitreal corticosteroids or anti-VEGF agents (off-label use, except aflibercept and ranibizumab). Data from the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network in 2011 demonstrated that, at two years of follow-up, intravitreal ranibizumab with prompt or deferred laser resulted in greater visual acuity gain and intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide plus laser also resulted in greater visual gain in pseudophakic eyes compared with laser alone. Individuals receiving the intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF agents may be re-examined as early as one month following injection.

<sup>†</sup> Exceptions include hypertension or fluid retention associated with heart failure, renal failure, pregnancy, or any other causes that may aggravate macular edema. Deferral of photocoagulation for a brief period of medical treatment may be considered in these cases. Also, deferral of CSME treatment is an option when the center of the macula is not involved, visual acuity is excellent, close follow-up is possible, and the patient understands the risks.

### CSME

- Retinal thickening <500 $\mu$ m from foveal
- Exudates <500 $\mu$ m from fovea with adjacent retinal thickening
- 1DD of retinal thickening within 1DD of fovea

### \*Center-Involvement (CI)

44



## Take Home Points

### SD-OCT – DR

- DM I - annual screenings beginning 5 years after onset
- DM II – screening diagnosis and annually thereafter
- **Glucose and B/P control lowers retinopathy risk**
- Women with DM who become pregnant should be examined early and closely in pregnancy course
  - **Eye examination is not required when gestational diabetes occurs during pregnancy**
- **CI-DME with vision loss = Intravitreal anti-VEGF**
- **Non-CI DME = Laser photocoagulation surgery**
- **PDR = PRP**

#### Putnam's Clinical Practice Guideline – DR Worksheet

- **History**
  - o Duration of DM diagnosis
  - o Past glycemic control (FBS and HbA1c)
  - o Medications
  - o Mx (Obesity / renal disease / HTN / dyslipidemia / neuropathy)
  - o OCHx (Trauma / Eye disease / Surgery or Injections)
- **Laboratory testing**
  - o Fasting glucose (<110 mg/dL) and A1c (<6%)
  - o Lipid panel (HDL/LDL + total cholesterol + triglycerides)
- **B/P measured 3X**
  - o Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) = [systolic + (2\*diastolic)]/3
  - o Mean Ophthalmic Perfusion Pressure = [(0.67\*MAP) - IOP]
    - Difference between diurnal and nocturnal MAP is nocturnal hypotension
- **BCVA**
  - o ETRDS
  - o Pelli-Robson or PV 5%
- **CCT Threshold**
- **Baseline Imaging**
  - o Full color fundus
    - (+/-) CSME - Retinal thickening within 500 µm of macular center
      - Hard exudates within 500 µm of macular center
      - Retinal thickening >1DD with any portion within 1DD of the macular center
  - o (+/-) Signs of NPDR
    - (+/-) Center-involved
    - (+/-) ONH neovascularization
    - (+/-) Vitreous / pre-retinal hemorrhage
  - o FAF (ultra-wide-field, if possible)
  - o OCT 5-line Raster
    - Identification of changes foveal thinning of inner retinal layers
  - o OCTA
    - Create baseline vascular appearance
    - Identify early neovascularization (deep plexus / choriocapillaris / Bruch's / intraretinal)
- **Oral Supplementation**
  - o Lutein (10mg) and Zeaxanthin (2mg) and meso-zeaxanthin (10mg)
  - o Ω3 2000mg (1:1 DHA + EPA)
  - o Trans-resveratrol 500-1000mg QD
  - o Curcumin 500-1000mg QD

45

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- **Retinal Vein Occlusions**
- Central Serous Chorioretinopathy
- Macular Hole
  - FTH
  - LMH
- Autoimmune Retinopathy
  - Paraneoplastic syndromes

46

## Retinal Vein Occlusions

### Epidemiology

#### Burden of disease of retinal vein occlusion: review of the literature

Eye (2021) 25(8): 981–988

- Population-based studies prevalence rates
  - **BRVO: ~2%**
  - **CRVO: ~0.2%**
- 15-year incidence rate is estimated at:
  - **~1.8% for BRVO and 0.2% for CRVO**
- Primary risk factors:
  - Age in 10-year increments (**OR: 1.93**)
  - Diastolic B/P in 10 mmHg increments (**OR: 1.47**)
  - Hyperlipidemia
- Race, sex and glaucoma were not significant risk factors



47

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Retinal Vein Occlusion

#### SD-OCT Predictors of Visual Outcomes after Ranibizumab Treatment for Macular Edema Resulting from RVO

Ophthalm (2020) 4(1): 67-76

##### Methods

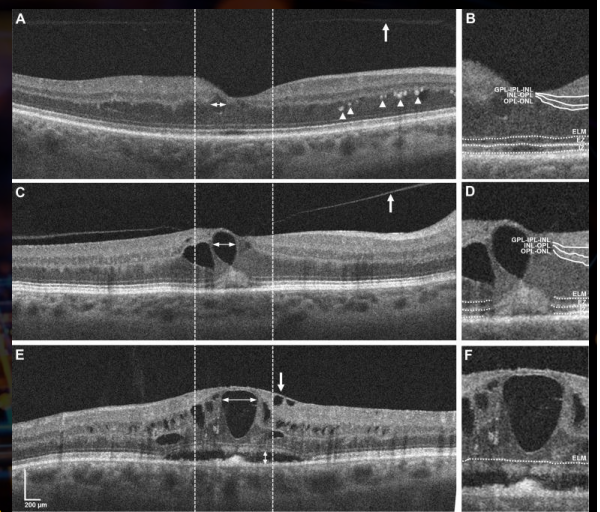
- Central subfield thickness (CST)
- Presence of VMT or ERM
- Presence, location, and amount of intraretinal fluid or SRF
- Presence, location, and amount of hyperreflective foci
- Disorganization of retinal inner layers (DRIL)
- Disruption of external limiting membrane (ELM), ellipsoid zone (EZ), and interdigitation zone (IZ).

##### Results

- Worse baseline BCVA was associated with
  - **ERM presence**
  - **Higher SRF**
  - **Larger intraretinal cysts**
  - **Higher percentage of DRIL**
  - **Higher percentage of EZ and IZ disruption**

##### Conclusions

- Although SD-OCT features may be associated with presenting vision in eyes with ME and RVO, **most eyes treated with ranibizumab achieve substantial vision gains**
- **Only older age and better baseline BCVA limited visual improvements**



48

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Retinal Vein Occlusion

#### Disorganization of Retinal Inner Layers and Ellipsoid Zone Disruption Predict Visual Outcomes in Central Retinal Vein Occlusion

*Ophthalm Retina (2019) 3(1): 83-92*

#### Methods

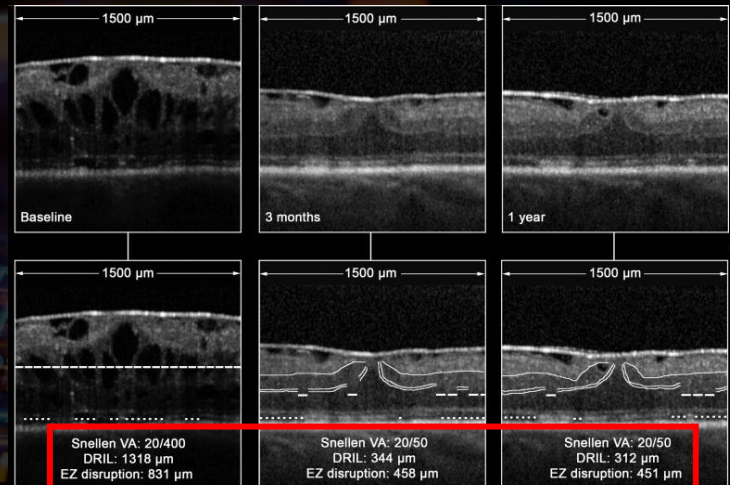
- VA and SD-OCT images from baseline, 3mos and 12mos were reviewed
- Morphologic features in **1500- $\mu$ m foveal zone** were analyzed by masked graders for DRIL, EZ and ELM disruption, cone outer segment tip (COST) visibility, cysts, subretinal and intraretinal fluid and ERM

#### Results

- Worsening VA over 1-year was associated with DRIL and EZ disruption and decreased COST visibility
- 3-month increase in DRIL and EZ disruption were the only factors predicting VA worsening over 1 year, accounting for 86% of variability**

#### Conclusions

- Early recovery over 3 months in both DRIL and EZ parameters are key drivers of 1-year VA outcomes**

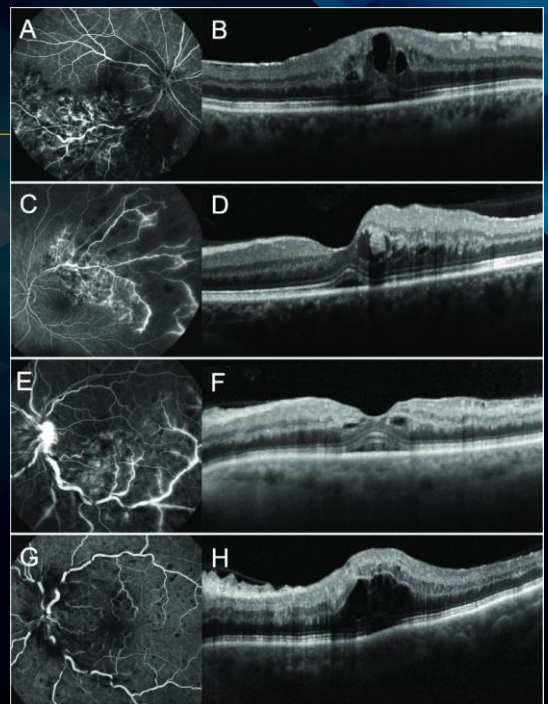


49

## Take Home Points

### SD-OCT – RVO

- RVO prognosis varies according to the site of the occlusion and the type of occlusion**
  - Ischemic or Non-ischemic
- Distal RVOs with less occlusion have a better prognosis than more proximal RVOs with greater ischemia**
- CRVOs and hemi-CRVOs have clinically similar courses
  - Associated with anterior segment neovascularization and neovascular glaucoma
- BRVOs and hemiretinal vein occlusions have a visible A/V crossing where the occlusion occurs
- ME may complicate both CRVOs and BRVOs
  - First line treatment for associated ME is anti-VEGFs**
  - Laser photocoagulation surgery in BRVO has a potential role in treatment
- Optimizing control of HTN, DM and serum lipid levels and are important in the management of systemic risk**



50

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinal Vein Occlusions
- **Central Serous Chorioretinopathy**
- Macular Hole
  - FTH
  - LMH
- Autoimmune Retinopathy
  - Paraneoplastic syndromes

51

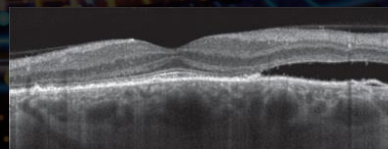
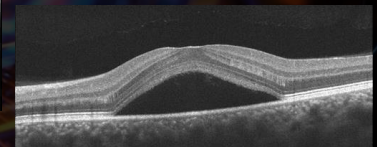
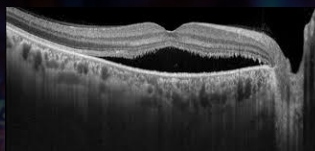
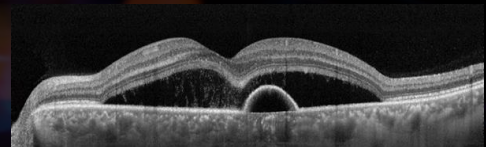
## Central Serous Chorioretinopathy

### Epidemiology

#### Central Serous Chorioretinopathy Review

*Clin Exp Ophthalmol* (2023) 51(3):243-270

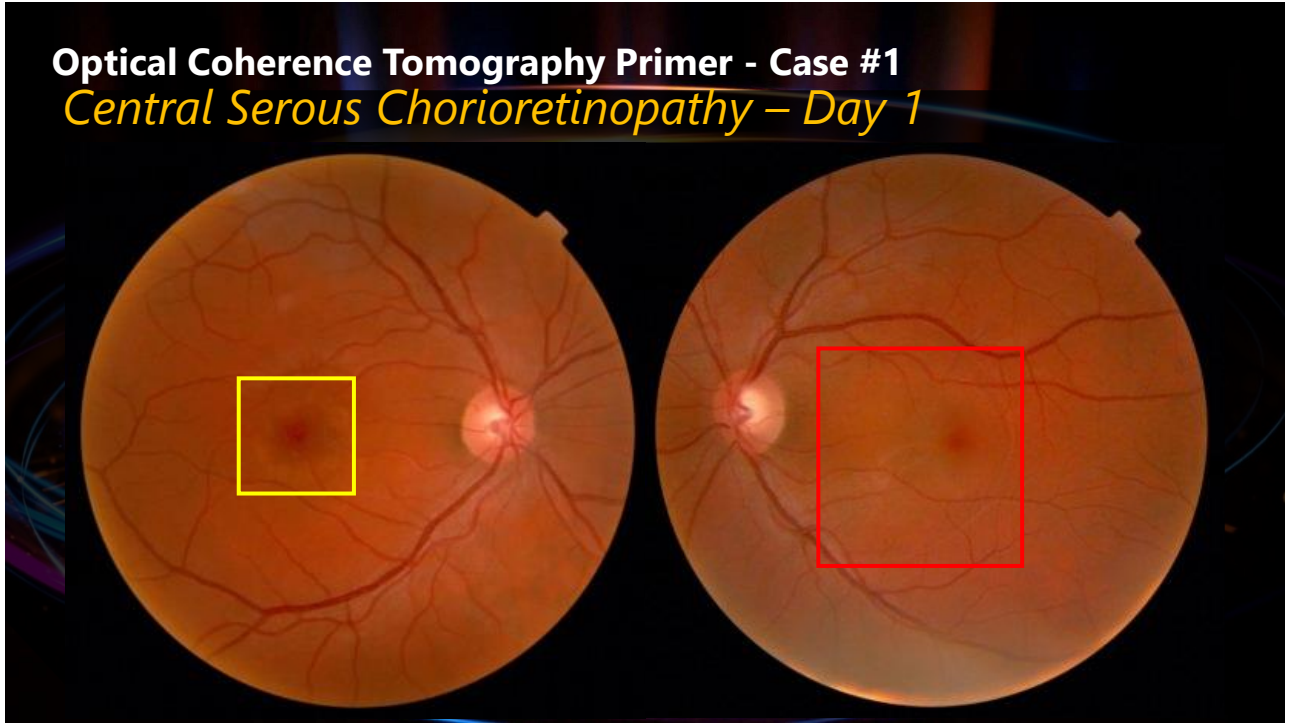
- Most commonly affects males aged between 20-50 years
  - Patients >50 tend to present with bilateral findings, retinal pigment epitheliopathy and secondary choroidal neovascularization
- Reported male : female ratio range 2:1 to 6:1
  - Described in patients as young as 8 years, and as old as 83 years
  - **4<sup>th</sup> most common non-surgical, fluid-leakage retinopathy**
    - **AMD**
    - **DR**
    - **RVO**
- Age-adjusted incidence
  - **23.4 per 100,000 men\*\***
  - **9.6 per 100,000 women**



52

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer - Case #1

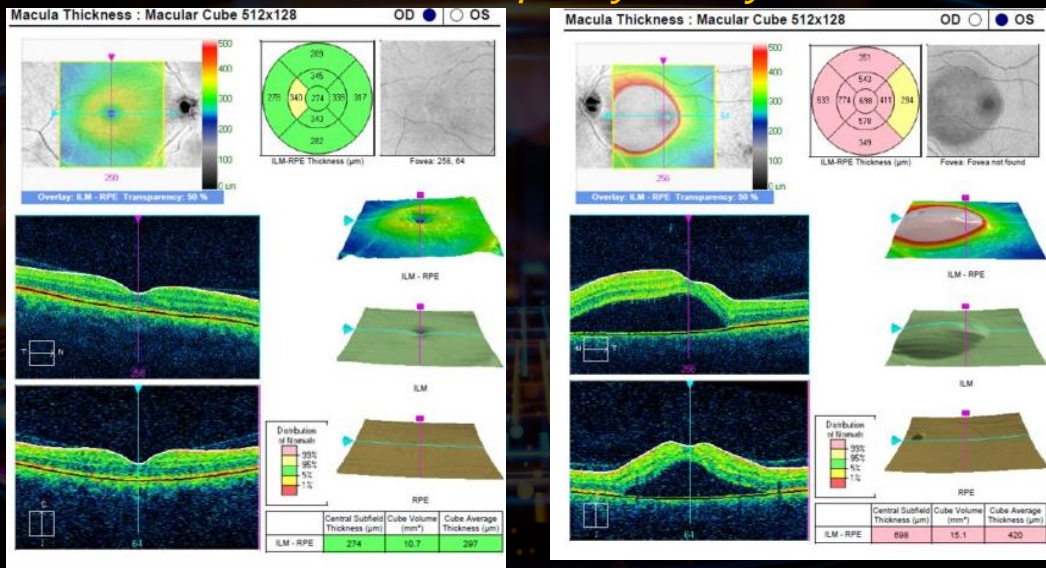
## Central Serous Chorioretinopathy – Day 1



53

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1

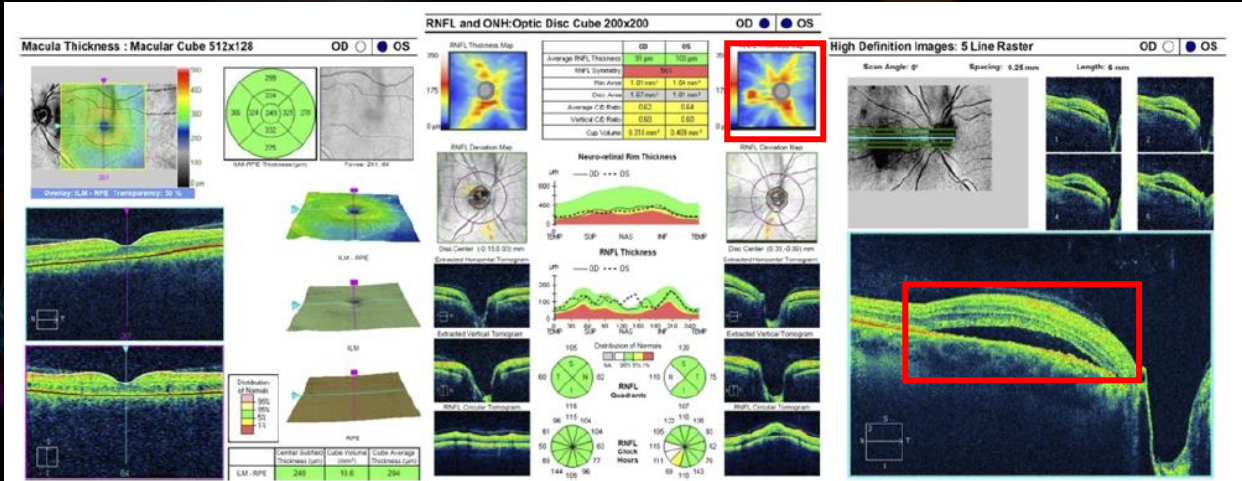
## Central Serous Chorioretinopathy – Day 1



54

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1

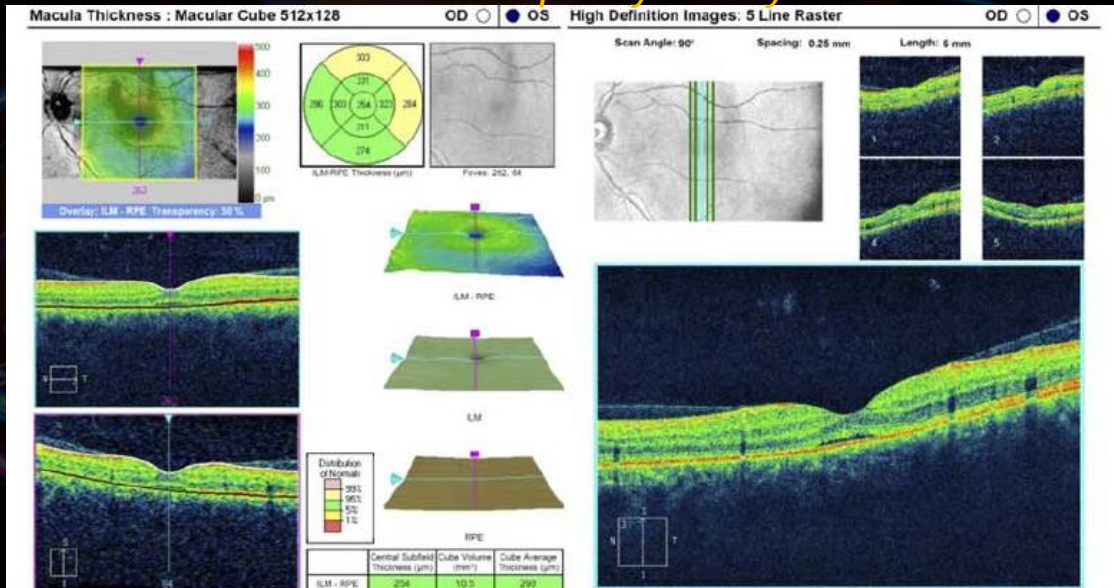
## Central Serous Chorioretinopathy – Day 56



56

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1

## Central Serous Chorioretinopathy – Day 105



58

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1

### Central Serous Chorioretinopathy

Cirrus OCT Macular Cube 512x128 OS

Date	Central subfield thickness	Cube volume	Cube mean thickness
Initial	698	15.1	420
1 wk F/U	697	16.0	446
2 wk F/U	629	15.2	423
3 wk F/U	355	12.8	357
4 wk F/U	333	11.8	328
5 wk F/U	281	11.1	308
6 wk F/U	Retinal specialist evaluation		
7 wk F/U	243	10.7	298
8 wk F/U	249	10.6	294
9 wk F/U	253	10.6	296
10 wk F/U	260	11.2	310
11 wk F/U	350	13.6	377
12 wk F/U	704	17.1	474
13 wk F/U	Retinal specialist evaluation		
14 wk F/U	314	11.1	309
15 wk F/U	254	10.5	292
16 wk F/U	232	10.5	291

60

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Central Serous Chorioretinopathy

#### OCT Risk Factors for 3-Year Development of Macular Complications in Eyes With "Resolved" Chronic CSC

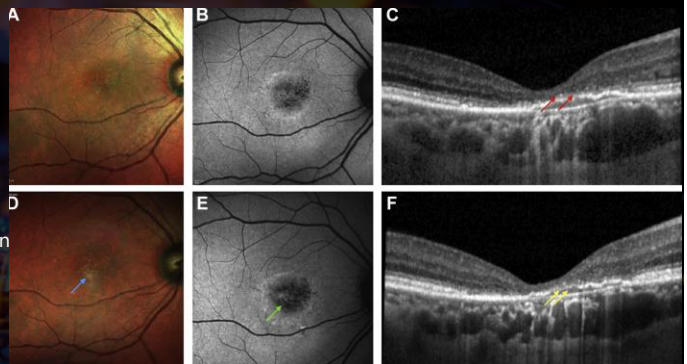
*Am J Ophthalmol* (2021) 223: 129-139

##### Methods

- 71 eyes with "resolved" chronic CSC at baseline and 36 months of regular follow-up examinations

##### Results

- 20 eyes (28.2%) developed macular complications**
  - 9 eyes (12.7%) displayed CNV
  - 9 eyes (12.7%) had large areas of RPE atrophy
  - 2 eyes (2.8%) developed cystoid macular degeneration
- Increased risk of development of CNV**
  - Intraretinal hyper-reflective foci [HR: 11.58]**
  - Inner choroidal attenuation [HR: 9.66]**
  - Macular complications in fellow eye [HR: 20.17]**
- Development of RPE atrophy**
  - ONL thinning [HR: 13.47]**
  - Inner choroidal attenuation [HR: 13.20]**
  - Dome-shaped PED [HR: 21.40]**

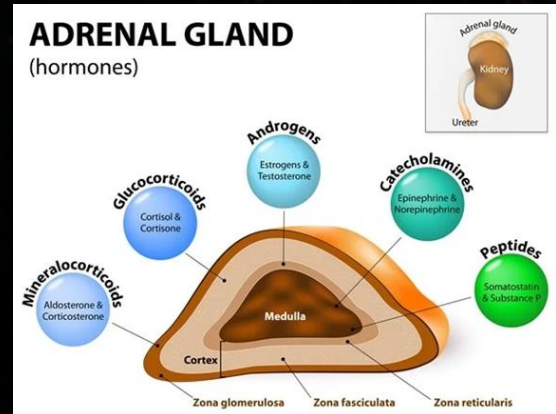


67

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### *Central Serous Chorioretinopathy*

- Choroidal pathology
  - Dysautoregulation -> Vascular hyperpermeability -> Accumulation of sub-RPE fluid
  - Pachychoroid spectrum
    - Pachychoroid pigment epitheliopathy
    - Pachychoroid neovasculopathy
    - Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
    - **CSCR**
- Associated with increased levels of adrenal hormones:
  - Glucocorticoids (**Cortisol** and Cortisone)
  - Mineralocorticoids (**Aldosterone** and Corticosterone)
  - Androgens (Estrogen and **Testosterone**)
  - Catecholamines (**Epinephrine** and Norepinephrine)
  - **Endogenous + Exogenous**
- Acute (<3-6 months) vs. Chronic (>3-6 months)
  - Non-resolving
  - Recurrent
  - Chronic
  - Inactive



68

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### *Central Serous Chorioretinopathy*

- **Case history**
  - **Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)**
  - **Cushing's disease**
  - Untreated HTN / Anxiety / Depression
- **Review modifiable risk factors**
  - Corticosteroids (prescribed and naturally occurring)
  - Circadian rhythm disruption (Shift-work, inadequate sleep)
  - Pregnancy (especially 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester)
- **Acute <3- 6 months**
  - Consider topical NSAID or CAI treatment x 12 weeks and monitor at 8 weeks
    - (+) improvement: Continue therapy until SRD resolves before discontinuing and monitoring
    - (-) improvement: Consider chronic management (**BELOW**)
- **Chronic >3-6 months**
  - Initiate MRA treatment if not contraindicated, obtain baseline serum K<sup>+</sup> levels and monitor at 4 weeks
  - (+) improvement: Continue therapy until SRD resolves before discontinuing and monitoring
  - (-) improvement: Consider alternate MRA and obtain OCTA/FA or ICGA to guide laser treatment
    - Localized, non-central leakage → focal laser
    - Diffuse, central leakage → PDT ([Perspectives & Update on Global Shortage of Verteporfin \(2024\) Ophthal Therapy](#))
      - (+) improvement: Monitor and coordinate additional therapy as needed.
      - (-) improvement: Consider anti-VEGF treatment

#### Derived from:

- Review of Optometry (2021, 2023, 2024)
- Review of Ophthalmology (2024)
- NIH StatPearls (2023)

69



## Take Home Points

### SD-OCT – CSC

#### Preferred practice pattern in central serous chorioretinopathy

*Br J Ophthalmol* (2018) 101(5):587-590

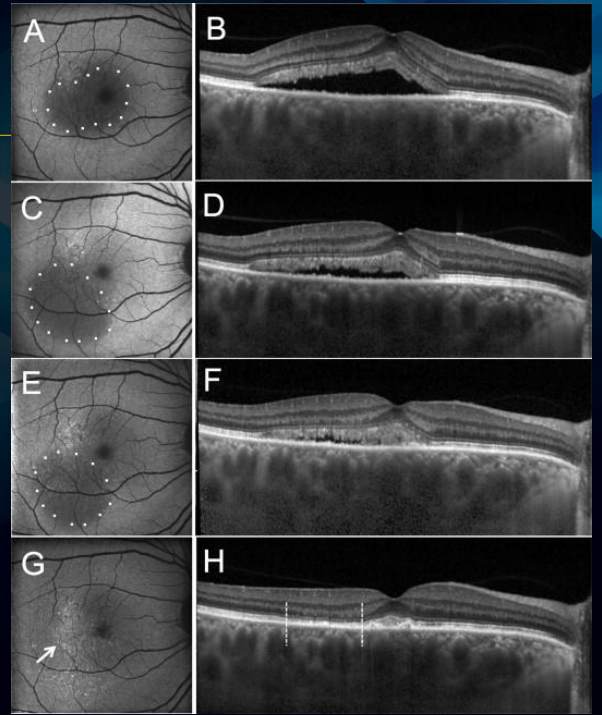
- CSC management lacks well-defined guidelines given the variable natural history of this disease and the lack of prospective trials
  - Online preferred physician practice survey to track trends and variations management

#### Results

- **Chronic cases**
  - **67% offered PDT as first line treatment**
    - **Full dose and half-fluence (61%)**
- Chronic cases with intraretinal cystic changes
  - 43.1% opted for observation
  - EDI-OCT: 60%
  - ICG: 38%

#### Conclusions

- While there are common practice patterns for CSC, there are **variations in regional and individual practice patterns**



70

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinal Vein Occlusions
- Central Serous Chorioretinopathy
- **Macular Hole**
  - **FTMH**
  - **LMH**
- Autoimmune Retinopathy
  - Paraneoplastic syndromes

71

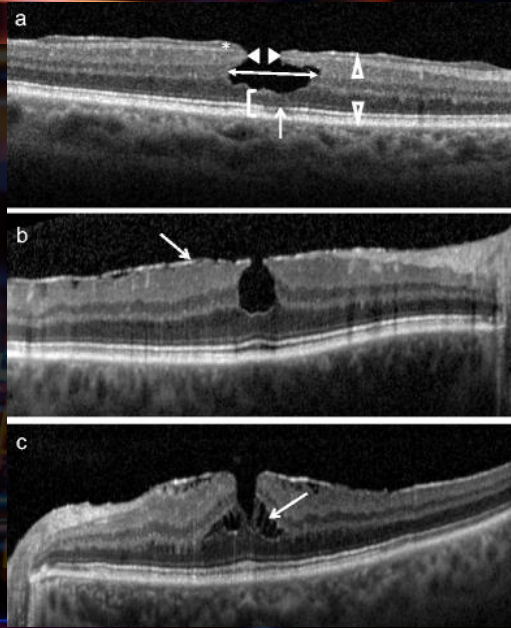
## Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes

### Epidemiology

Risk factors for the development of idiopathic macular hole: population-based cohort study

*Scientific Reports (2022) 12(1): 21778*

- Idiopathic presentation is typically unilateral
  - Bilateral involvement varies widely from 2-28% with no definitive systemic association
- Females are more commonly involved (3:1) in sixth or seventh decade of life
  - Myopic and traumatic macular hole can present at any age
- **Prevalence ~3.3 per 1000**
- **Incidence ~7.8 per 100,000**
- Etiology primarily idiopathic or related to VMT
  - Intraocular surgical intervention / laser
  - Epiretinal membrane
  - Hypertensive retinopathy
  - Diabetic retinopathy (DR)
  - Vitelliform dystrophy



Lamellar Hole

Macular Pseudohole + ERM

Macular Pseudohole + Cleaved Edges

72

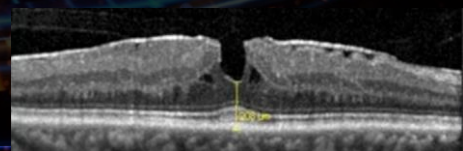
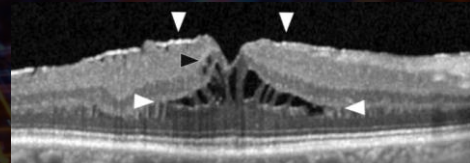
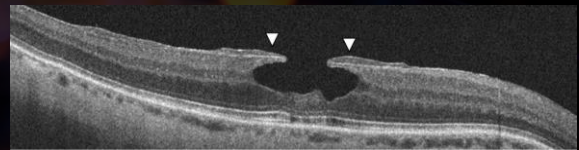
## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes

OCT-based consensus definition for lamellar macular hole

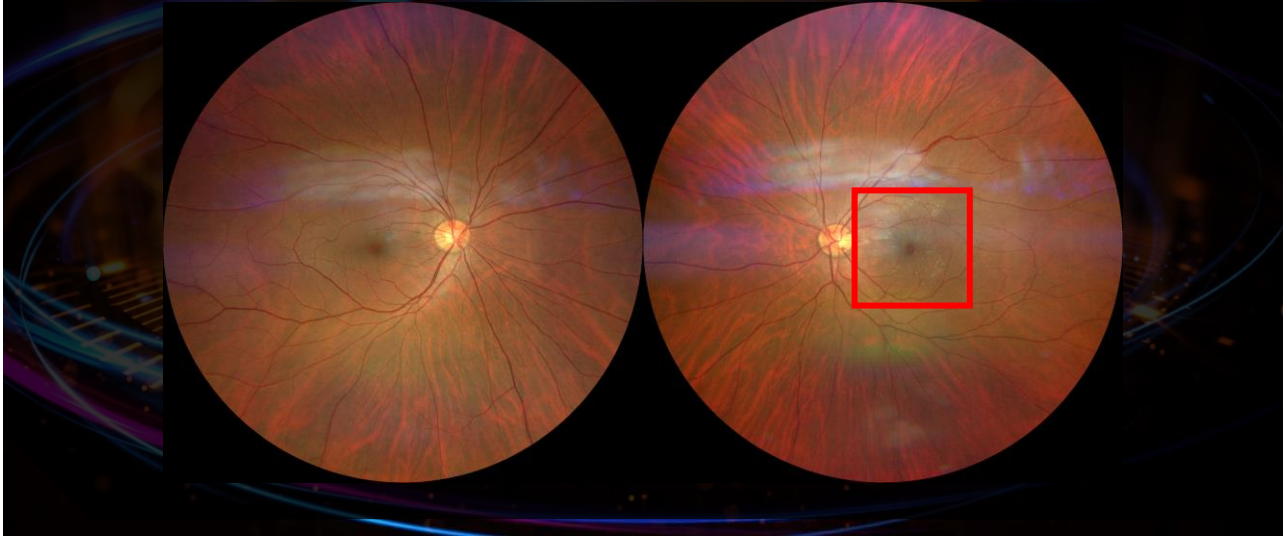
*Br J Ophthalm (2019) 104(12)*

- **LMH**
  - Irregular foveal contour
  - Foveal cavity with undermined edges
  - Loss of foveal tissue with EZ disruption
- **ERM foveoschisis**
  - **ERM**
  - Schisis at Henle fiber layer
  - INL microcystoid spaces with retinal thickness increase
- **Macular pseudohole**
  - **Foveal sparing ERM**
  - Steepened foveal profile and an increased central retinal thickness
  - Microcystoid spaces



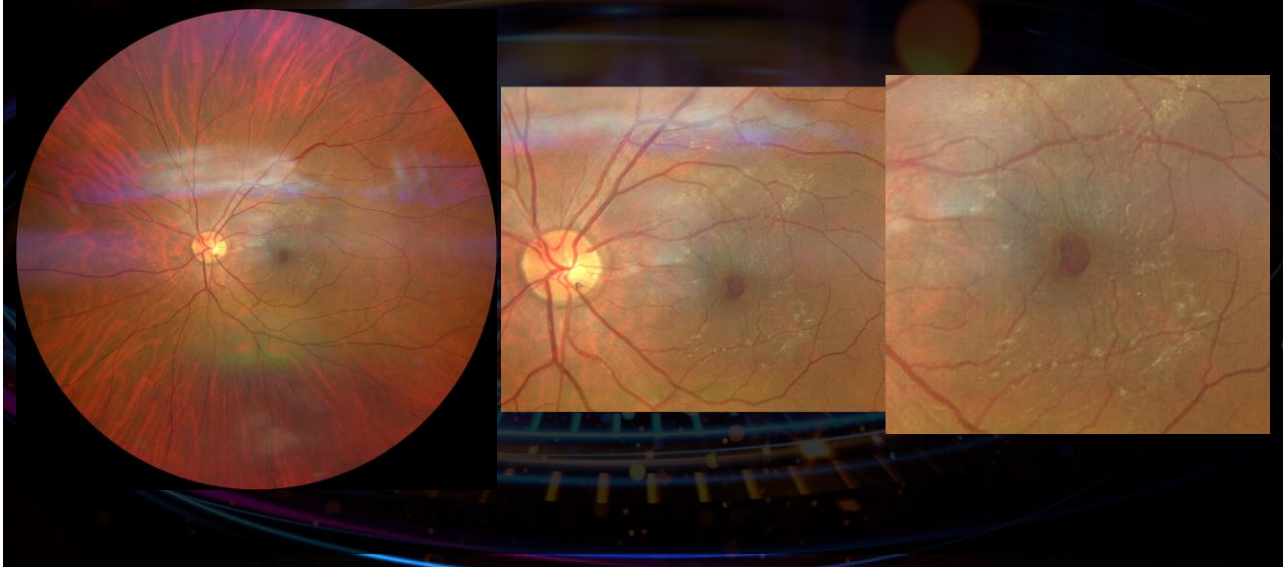
73

**Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1**  
*Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes*



74

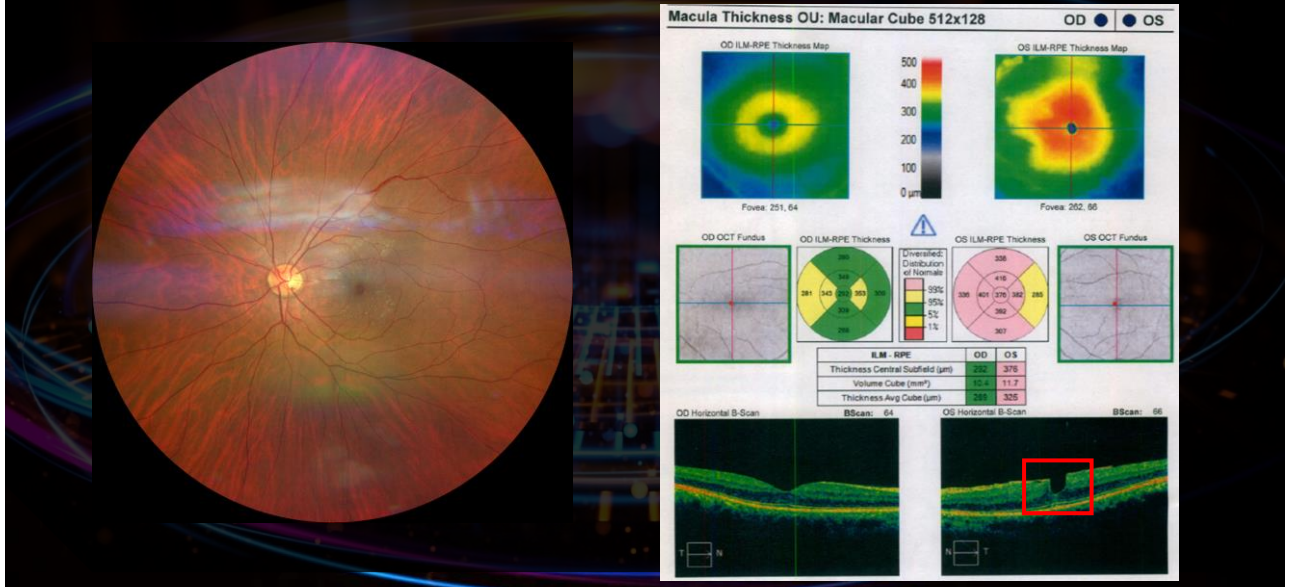
**Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1**  
*Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes*



75

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer – Case #1

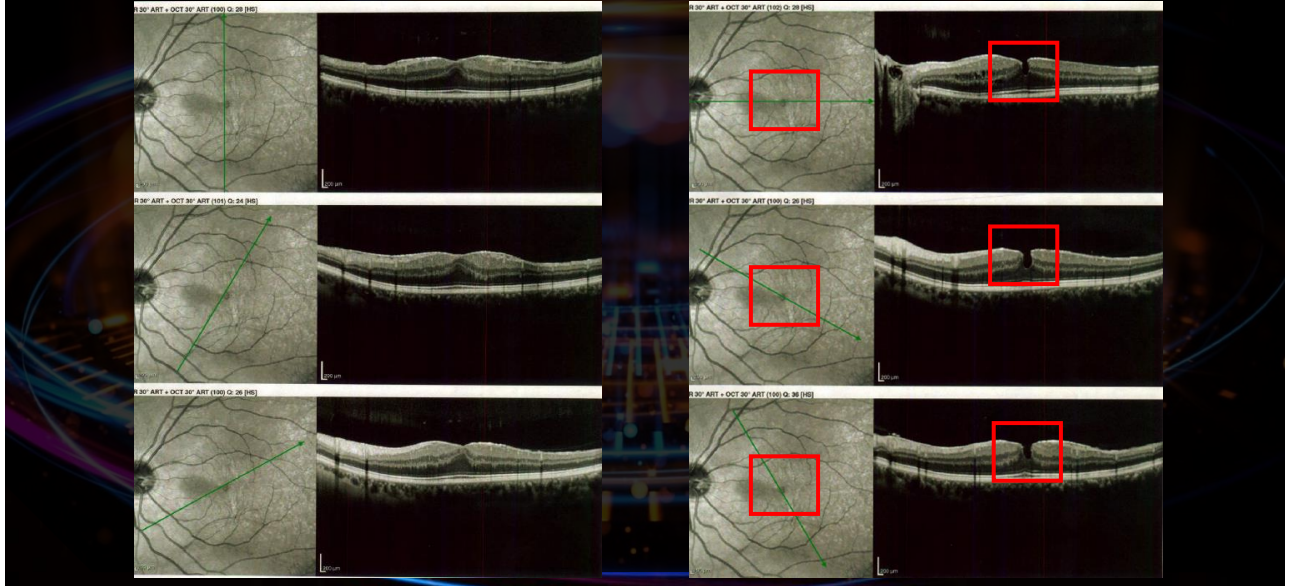
## Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes



76

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

## Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes



77

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

## Lamellar and Full-Thickness Macular Holes

### Percentage of Fellow Eyes That Develop Full-Thickness Macular Hole in Patients With Unilateral Macular Hole

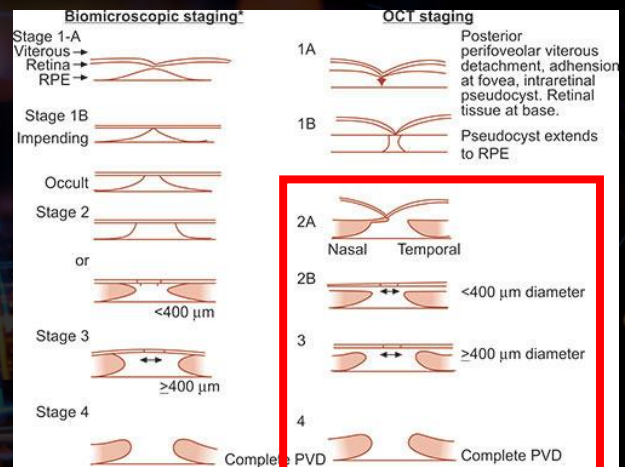
*Arch Ophthalmol* (2012) 130(3):393-394

#### Results

- 394 men and 688 women in the study with mean age at initial surgery of  $64.2 \pm 8.2$  years with F/U period of  $5.9 \pm 3.8$  years
- 960 (88%) remained a unilateral MH and 122 patients (12%) developed an MH in the fellow eye
- Gender, age at onset and axial length were not significantly different between the unilateral and bilateral groups
- Risk of the fellow eye developing an MH
  - **11.6% at 5 years**
  - **16.7% at 10 years**
  - **21.9% at 20 years**
  - **24.5% at 30 years**

#### Conclusion

- **Appearance of the vitreoretinal interface in SD-OCT images is associated with the risk of developing an MH in the fellow eye**



78

## Take Home Points

### SD-OCT – LMT + FTMH

- More common in females than in males
  - Usually occur after age 55
- 15% rate of MH formation in fellow eye within 5-year period after first eye
- **Patients with VMT and (-) macular hole (stage 1-A or 1-B) should be observed without treatment as they often remain stable or even improve**
  - **No evidence that treatment improves the prognosis**
- Most patients with stage 2 to 4 macular holes will have a poor prognosis without treatment
  - Visual prognosis is good following successful macular hole closure
- **Studies report ~90% of recent MH <400μm can be closed with vitrectomy surgery**
- Early detection of a macular hole is associated with both a higher closure rate after vitrectomy surgery as well as better postoperative visual acuity

TABLE 1 CLINICAL STAGES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MACULAR HOLES

Stage*	Characteristics
1-A (impending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of the foveal depression and a yellowish foveal spot (100–200 μm in diameter)</li> <li>• Localized shallow detachment of the perifoveal vitreous cortex with persistent adherence to the foveola</li> <li>• Vitreofoveolar traction may horizontally separate (split) the retina at the fovea (pseudocyst) that corresponds to the yellow spot<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• Epiretinal membranes are uncommon</li> <li>• Visual acuity ranges from 20/25 to 20/80</li> <li>• Surgical intervention is not recommended</li> </ul>
1-B (impending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow ring 200–350 μm in diameter</li> <li>• Posterior extension of the pseudocyst with disruption of the outer retinal layer<sup>21,23</sup></li> <li>• The retinal roof remains intact with persistent adherence of the posterior hyaloid to the retina<sup>21,22</sup></li> <li>• Epiretinal membranes are uncommon</li> <li>• Visual acuity ranges from 20/25 to 20/80</li> <li>• Surgical intervention is not recommended</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small full-thickness (&lt;400 μm in diameter) retinal defect, often eccentric</li> <li>• Epiretinal membranes are uncommon</li> <li>• Visual symptoms include metamorphopsia and decreased vision</li> <li>• Visual acuity 20/25 to 20/80</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-thickness hole ≥400 μm in diameter</li> <li>• The posterior hyaloid is separated from the macula but may remain attached at the optic disc and be attached more peripherally<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• An operculum or a flap is present on the posterior hyaloid over the hole and is visible clinically or by means of optical coherence tomography</li> <li>• A cuff of subretinal fluid may be detected along with intraretinal edema and cysts</li> <li>• Drusen-like deposits* may be occasionally seen in the base of the hole</li> <li>• A rim of retinal pigment epithelium hyper/hypopigmentation is often present at the junction between edematous or detached retina and normal-appearing attached retina in long-standing cases<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• Epiretinal membranes may be present</li> <li>• Visual acuity usually ranges from 20/100 to 20/400<sup>7,24</sup></li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full-thickness hole with a diameter usually larger than stage 3 (&gt;400 μm in diameter)</li> <li>• A complete posterior vitreous detachment with a Weiss ring<sup>20,23</sup></li> <li>• A cuff of subretinal fluid, intraretinal edema, and cystoid changes are usually present</li> <li>• Drusen-like deposits* may be occasionally seen in the base of the hole</li> <li>• Epiretinal membranes are more frequent<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• Visual acuity is more profoundly affected to 20/100 to 20/400<sup>7,24</sup></li> </ul>

79

## SD-OCT Findings Related to Retinal Pathology

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinal Vein Occlusions
- Central Serous Chorioretinopathy
- Macular Hole
  - FTMH
  - LMH
- **Autoimmune Retinopathy**
  - **Paraneoplastic syndromes**

80

## Autoimmune Retinopathy Epidemiology

### Update on autoimmune retinopathy

*J Ophthalmol* 2020 68(9):1829-1837

- Female in 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> decade with (-) FHx of RP or other inherited retinal dystrophies
- Divided into 2 groups
  - Paraneoplastic
    - Cancer-associated retinopathy (CAR)
    - Melanoma-associated retinopathy (MAR)
  - Non-paraneoplastic (more common and younger)
    - **Typically diagnosis of exclusion**
    - **Acute zonal outer occult retinopathy (AZOOR)**
      - Bilateral, asymmetric
    - **Multiple Evanescent White Dot Syndrome (MEWDS)**
      - Unilateral
- If testing is consistent AIR:
  - **Perform ARA testing.**
    - **(+) ARA: Refer for systemic malignancy evaluation**
    - **(-) ARA or (-) malignancy: tentative nPAIR diagnosis**

Table 1: Characteristic Features of AIR Subtypes

	CAR	MAR	nPAIR
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associated with malignancy (may present before or after cancer diagnosis)</li> <li>• 2:1 ratio female:male</li> <li>• &gt; 45 years old</li> <li>• Bilateral, slowly progressive vision loss</li> <li>• Rod and cone dysfunction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associated with melanoma</li> <li>• May present years after diagnosis</li> <li>• More prevalent in men</li> <li>• Vitelliform retinopathy (rare)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of autoimmune disease</li> <li>• Younger patients</li> <li>• More prevalent in women</li> <li>• Bilateral, subacute vision loss</li> <li>• Diffuse retinal atrophy</li> </ul>
Associated antibodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recoverin</li> <li>• Alpha-enolase</li> <li>• Tubby-like protein 1</li> <li>• Heat shock cognate protein 70</li> <li>• Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase</li> <li>• Carbonic anhydrase II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transducin</li> <li>• Arrestin</li> <li>• Bestrophin</li> <li>• Anti-aldolase A and C</li> <li>• Rhodopsin</li> <li>• Carbonic anhydrase II</li> <li>• Myelin basic protein</li> <li>• Interphotoreceptor retinoid-binding protein</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recoverin</li> <li>• Alpha-enolase</li> <li>• Carbonic anhydrase II</li> <li>• Transducin-alpha</li> <li>• Müller cell-associated antigen</li> </ul>
Diagnostic studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fFERG: a- and b-wave abnormalities</li> <li>• OCT: loss of the ellipsoid layer, external limiting membrane, and outer nuclear layer; cystic spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fFERG: reduced b-wave, normal dark-adapted a-wave</li> <li>• IHC: staining of ARAs in bipolar layer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fFERG: diffuse depression</li> <li>• OCT: thinning of outer layer, irregular ellipsoid layer</li> </ul>
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steroids</li> <li>• IVIG</li> <li>• Immunosuppressive agents</li> <li>• Antioxidants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plasmapheresis</li> <li>• IVIG</li> <li>• Radiation therapy/surgery to reduce tumor burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local/systemic steroids</li> <li>• Antimetabolites</li> </ul>

SOURCE: Adapted from Grewal DS et al. *Retina*. 2014;34(5):827-845. **Abbreviations:** ARAs, antiretinal antibodies; fFERG, full-field electroretinogram; IHC, immunohistochemistry; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulin; OCT, optical coherence tomography.

81

## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### Autoimmune Disease

#### Retinal Sublayer Analysis in Autoimmune Retinopathy and Identification of OCT Phenotypes

*Ocular Immun Inflamm* (2023) 10: 1-8

##### Methods

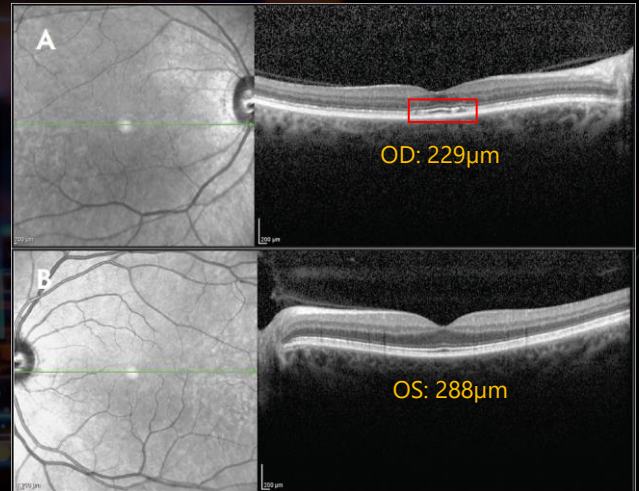
- 2007-2017 chart review performed evaluating AIR patients
- SD-OCT retinal sublayer analysis was performed, and paradoxical thickening phenotypes were reviewed.

##### Results

- 29 AIR patients with (+) anti-retinal antibodies identified
- **Thinner retinal sublayers compared to controls**
  - **12 patients (41.4%) had paradoxical thickening of OPL suggesting two distinct OCT phenotypes**
- **No association was found between retinal sublayer thickness and specific antiretinal antibodies**

##### Conclusions

- Pathogenicity of antiretinal antibodies remains unclear
- OCT phenotypes observed underscore need to identify underlying disease processes

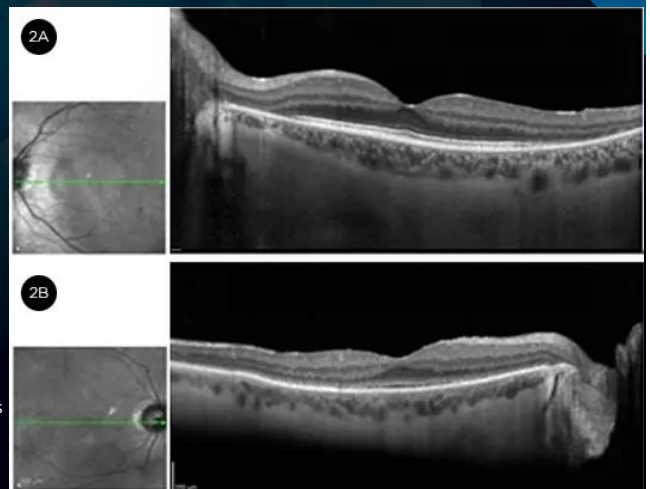


82

## Take Home Points

### SD-OCT – Autoimmune Retinopathy

- **Cancer-Associated Retinopathy (CAR)**
  - Observed in different tumor types including small cell lung carcinoma (most frequent), cervical cancer, endometrial carcinoma and uterine sarcoma
  - May present after or before cancer diagnosis
  - Generally, develops after the age of 45 (female > male)
  - **Unilateral, slowly progressive vision related to both rod and cone dysfunction**
  - **SD-OCT = Cystic spaces + loss of the EZ, ELM and ONL**
- **Melanoma-Associated Retinopathy (MAR)**
  - Melanoma has been diagnosed and has metastasized
  - Associated with cutaneous and uveal melanomas
  - More common in men than in women
  - **May present with visual symptoms years after the diagnosis**
    - **Photopsia, peripheral field loss and nyctalopia**
  - **May show ON pallor, RPE abnormalities and vessel changes**
- **Non-Paraneoplastic Autoimmune Retinopathy (nPAIR)**
  - Most common subtype (e.g. AZOOR)
  - Patients tend to be younger and FHx of autoimmune disease
  - Presents bilaterally with photopsias, scotomas, color vision changes
  - **Must R/O malignancy and RP**
  - **SD-OCT = thinning of ONL with irregularity of the EZ**
  - Absence of retinal degeneration, fundus lesions, or intraocular inflammation



83

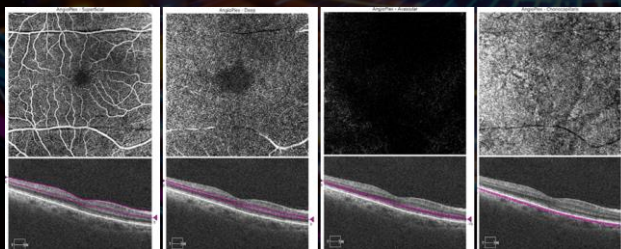
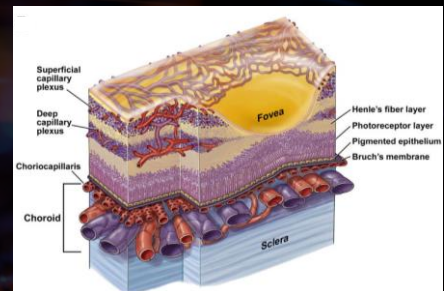
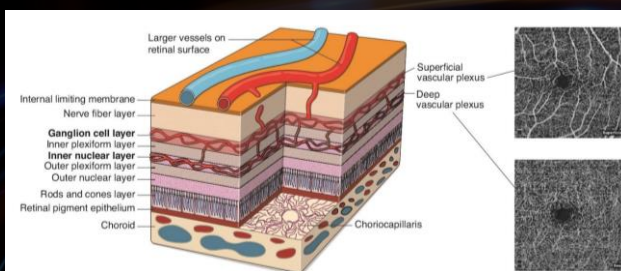
## Subclinical Retinopathy Diagnosis

- SD-OCT
- +  
• **OCTA**

84

## Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography Primer

### Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography (OCTA)



#### Superficial capillary plexus (SCP)

Within NFL and GCL at the same level as the arterioles and major venules

#### Deep capillary plexus (DCP)

Between the INL and the OPL

#### Avascular outer retina

Comprises the ONL and PR nuclear layer and photoreceptors.

*\*normally avascular where any apparent flow is a projection artifact or results from **pathology***

86



## Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

### *OCT relationship with OCTA - Intermediate AMD*

#### Quantitative analysis of inner retinal structural and microvascular alterations in intermediate AMD: SS-OCTA study

*Photodiag and Photodynamic Therapy (2020) 32:102030*

##### Methods

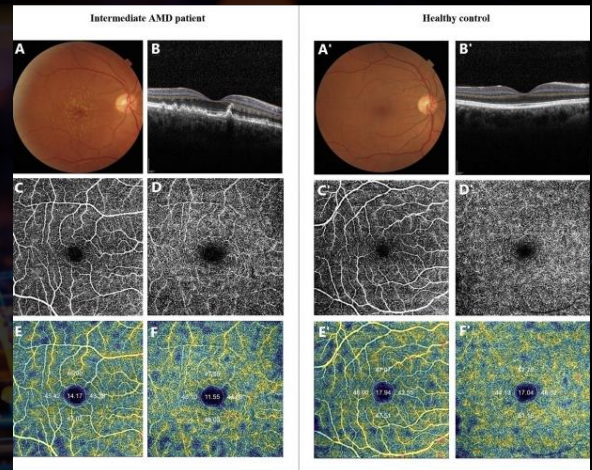
- 58 iAMD patients and 64 controls were enrolled
- RNFL, GCL, IPL, INL, OPL thicknesses analyzed in central and parafovea
- FAZ area and vessel density of the SCP and DCP in the fovea and parafoveal region were obtained

##### Results

- **RNFL, GCL, and IPL were significantly thinner compared to controls**
- **Parafoveal SCP vessel density significantly decreased compared to controls**
- **GCC was significantly correlated with SCP vessel density measurements**

##### Conclusion

- **Inner retina is affected in iAMD in terms of structural and microvascular components**
- **Inner retinal thinning is significantly correlated with vessel density reduction suggesting a cause-and-effect relationship**



88

## Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography Primer

### *OCT relationship with OCTA - nvAMD*

#### Retinal vessel density in exudative and nonexudative AMD on OCTA

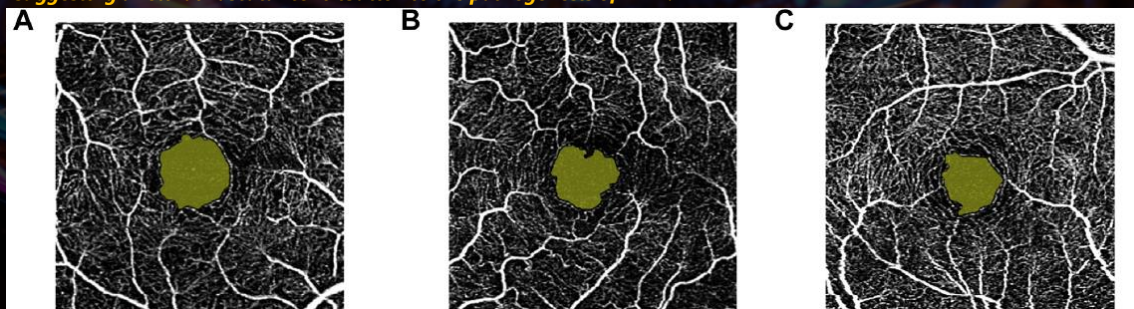
*American Journal of Ophthalmology (2020) 212:7-16*

##### Results

- In eyes with AMD, vessel density (VD) decreases with age in the foveal, parafoveal and full macular regions
- Exudative AMD demonstrated lower VD especially in the parafoveal ( $30\% \pm 6\%$  vs  $33\% \pm 6\%$ ) and full regions ( $28\% \pm 6\%$  vs  $31\% \pm 6\%$ ) compared with atrophic AMD

##### Conclusion

- **Retinal VD is decreased in eyes with exudative AMD compared with atrophic AMD but is unaffected by anti-VEGF treatments suggesting a retinal vascular contribution to the pathogenesis of AMD.**



90

# Optical Coherence Tomography Primer

## OCT relationship with OCTA - Diabetic Retinopathy

### Evaluation of vessel density in DRIL after resolved DME using OCTA

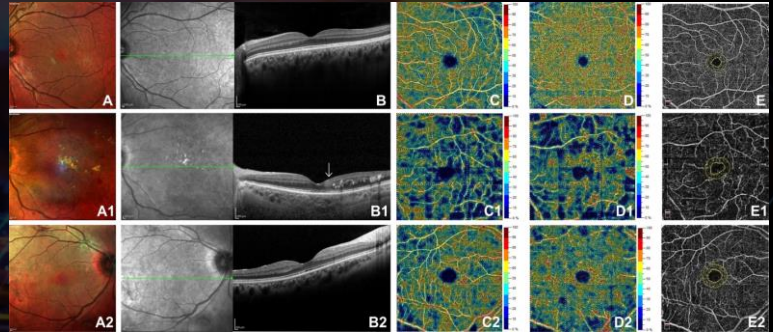
*Plos ONE (2021) 16(1)*

#### Methods

- 37 DRIL patients ( $63 \pm 14$ ), 30 (+) DR, (-)DRIL patients and 35 controls were evaluated for VD in the macular region SCP, DCP and FAZ

#### Results

- DRIL and no DRIL groups showed decreased VD in SCP and DCP and larger FAZ compared to controls
  - DRIL shows statistically significant**
    - Reduction in VD
    - Increased FAZ
- Significant negative correlation between foveal SCP, DCP and BCVA in DRIL group



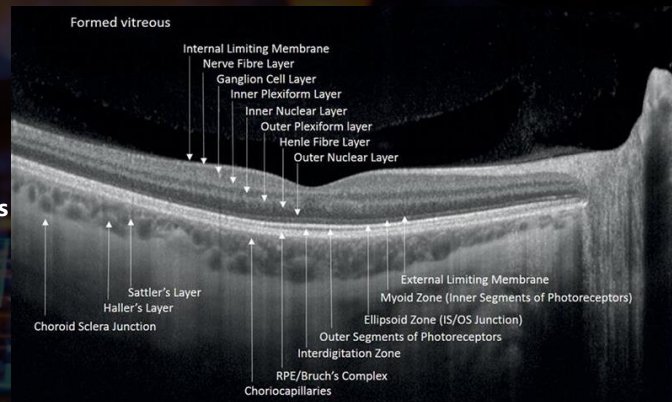
#### Conclusions

- Presence of DRIL significantly associated with:**
  - Decreased SCP and DCP vascular density
  - Increase FAZ
  - Decreased BCVA

102

## Take Home Points

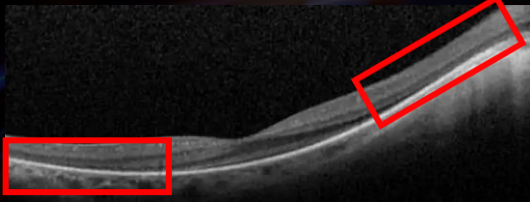
- OCT has limited value in isolation**
  - Clinical Signs
    - Amsler Chart 7
    - Photostress test
    - Watske-Allen
  - Color fundus photos
  - FAF photos
- OCT has direct correlation to OCTA**
  - DRIL and EZ disruption are manifestations of underlying SCP and DCP perfusion deficits
- OCT is a medically reimbursable procedure**
  - Ophthalmic conditions
  - Systemic conditions
- Clinical pathology generally shows in:**
  - Vitreoretinal interface
  - Inner retina
  - Outer retina
  - Bruch's/RPE
  - Choroid



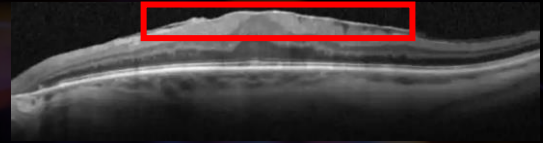
103

## Take Home Points

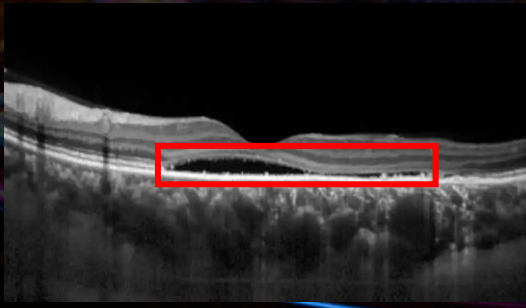
Retinitis pigmentosa (RP)



Epiretinal Membrane (ERM)



Central Serous Chorioretinopathy (CSC)



Geographic Atrophy



105

## Take Home Points

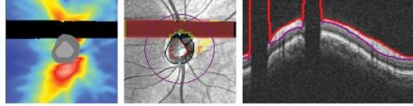
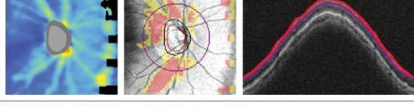
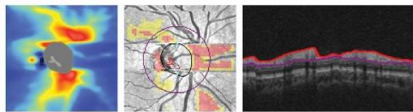
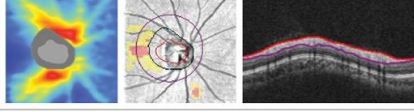
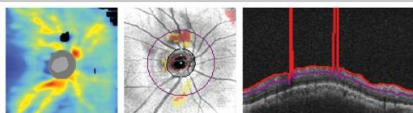
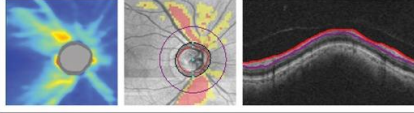
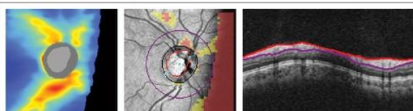


### Clinical correlation required

- **Epiretinal membrane (ERM)**
  - Above ILM at vitreoretinal interface
  - Hyperreflective membrane causing traction on the inner retinal surface
  - *Older patient, often with PVD describing central distortion*
- **Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)**
  - Within INL and OPL
  - Hypo-reflective cysts
  - *H/O DM, central vision blurry, often with worsened DR*
- **Central serous retinopathy (CSC)**
  - Outer retina, sub-RPE
  - Hypo-reflective serous fluid
  - *Younger male, Type A, steroid/hormone medication use*
- **Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)**
  - Outer retina, Bruch's/RPE
  - Hyperreflective bumps
  - *Usually older, fair-skinned patients, minimal symptoms*

108

# Take Home Points

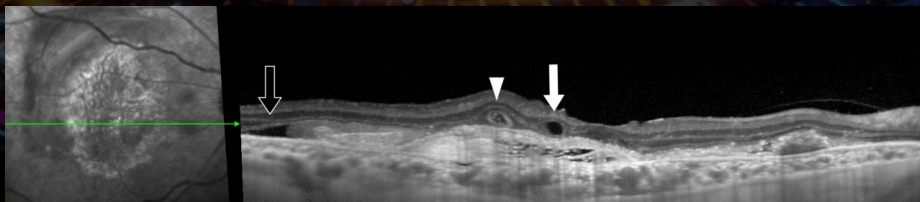
<p><b>Blink artifact.</b> Black bands of missing data, caused by a patient blinking during acquisition, spanning the entire image. This may affect disc and/or cup delineation. Blinks affecting the scan circle will have vertical black rectangles of missing retinal profile on the TSNT tomogram.</p>		<p><b>Image truncation.</b> Data gaps corresponding to the areas of truncation show apparent thinning on the deviation map. The B-scan is vertically displaced, resulting in part of the retinal profile being cut off. This may cause RNFL segmentation errors.</p>	
<p><b>Motion artifact.</b> Manifests as a discontinuity in the thickness and (en face) deviation maps, most easily visualized as breaks in the retinal vasculature. The deviation map may consequently flag regions of apparent thinning. Retinal profile can be discontinuous if the scan circle is affected.</p>		<p><b>Inaccurate optic cup and disc margin delineation.</b> Grayscale depiction of the cup and disc margins adopt an unusual appearance and do not match the fundoscopic findings.</p>	
<p><b>Media opacities.</b> Can cause data gaps (black areas) and apparent thinning (red pixels) corresponding to the opacity. Opacities affecting the scan circle manifest as vertical black shadows interrupting the retinal profile and RNFL segmentation.</p>		<p><b>OCT fundus banding.</b> Correction of motion artifacts results in different gradations of individual B-scans. These appear as horizontal lines or bands in the deviation map (en face image) with no true discontinuity of the retinal vasculature.</p>	
<p><b>Vignetting/cut-edge.</b> These arcuate black areas of missing data are typically due to shadowing from the pupil margin. The circular tomogram will show a degrading scan signal in the affected area (white arrow) of the scan.</p>			

109

## Take Home Points

### Pro Tips

- **Within SD-OCT, sensitivity is not constant throughout the image**
  - As the tissue of interest moves further from the point of maximum sensitivity (**zero delay line**), image quality can decrease and noise can increase
  - **Setting change can acquire images with either vitreous or choroid closer to zero delay line**
    - Default Setting: Most devices utilize maximal sensitivity on vitreous side
- **Consider review of layer segmentation lines if clinical correlation doesn't match**
  - Macular GCC = NFL + GCL + IPL (**DEVICE DEPENDENT... NEXT SLIDE**)
    - **Automated placement of layer segmentation may erroneously measure thickness**
- **Outer retina tubulations (ORT)**
  - ~2.5% of nvAMD patients show ORTs at time of diagnosis
    - **~45% of nvAMD develop ORTs over 4 years**



110



115

Omega-3: TG Omega 2000mg



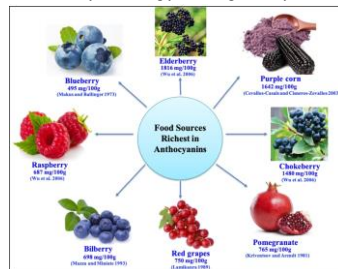
Curcumin: Longvida 500mg



Resveratrol + Quercetin: Longevinex



Anthocyanins: I haven't found a preferred brand based on bioavailability so I strongly encourage dietary sources



116

# Take Home Points: Clinical **Nutraceutical** supplementation

## MacuHealth PLUS+®

### SUPPLEMENT FACTS

Serving Size: 4 Softgels, Servings Per Container: 90

Amount per serving		% DV
Calories	15	
Total Fat	1 g	1%*
Vitamin C (as Ascorbic Acid)	500 mg	556%
Vitamin E (as d-alpha Tocopherol)	268 mg	1787%
Zinc (as Zinc Oxide)	25 mg	227%
Copper (as Cupric Oxide)	1.2 mg	133%
Lutein (L)	10 mg	†
Meso-Zeaxanthin (MZ)	10 mg	†
Zeaxanthin (Z)	2 mg	†

\*\* Percent Daily Values (DV) are established on a 2,000 calorie diet

† Daily Value (DV) not established

Other Ingredients: Sunflower Oil, Gelatin Capsule (Gelatin, Glycerin, Purified Water, Caramel Color), Yellow Beeswax, Tween 80, Soy Lecithin, Ascorbyl Palmitate, d-alpha Tocopherol Acetate. **Contains Soy.**

Directions: Take 4 softgels daily, preferably with a meal.

## MacuHealth®

### SUPPLEMENT FACTS

Serving Size: 1 Softgel, Servings Per Container: 90

Amount per serving		% DV
Lutein (L)	10 mg	**
Meso-Zeaxanthin (MZ)	10 mg	**
Zeaxanthin (Z)	2 mg	**

\*\* % Daily Value (DV) not established

Other Ingredients: Sunflower Oil, Gelatin Capsule (Gelatin, Glycerin, Purified Water, Annatto), Marigold Flower Extract, Yellow Beeswax, Tween 80, Soy Lecithin, Ascorbyl Palmitate, d-alpha-Tocopherol Acetate). **Contains Soy.**

Directions: Take 1 softgel daily, preferably with a meal.

## TG OMEGA-3 FISH OIL

### SUPPLEMENT FACTS

Serving Size: 4 softgels, Servings Per Container: 30

Amount per serving		% DV**
Calories	35	
Calories from Fat	30	
Total Fat	3.5 g	5%
Cholesterol	< 5 mg	1%
Protein	1 g	2%
Total Omega-3	2,450 mg	†
EPA	1,100 mg	†
DHA	1,100 mg	†
Other Omega-3	250 mg	†

\*\* % Daily Value (DV) based on a 2,000 calorie diet

† Daily Value not established

Other Ingredients: Fish Oil, Gelatin, Glycerin, Purified Water, Natural Lemon Flavor, Antioxidant (Rosemary Extract, Sunflower Oil, Natural Tocopherols, Ascorbyl Palmitate). Contains: Fish (Anchovy, Sardine, Mackerel)

Dry Eye Management: 4 softgels | Overall Health: 3 softgels | Pre/Postnatal: 3 softgels