

AMD from A to Z: Innovations in Management and Treatment

COPE# 89609-TD

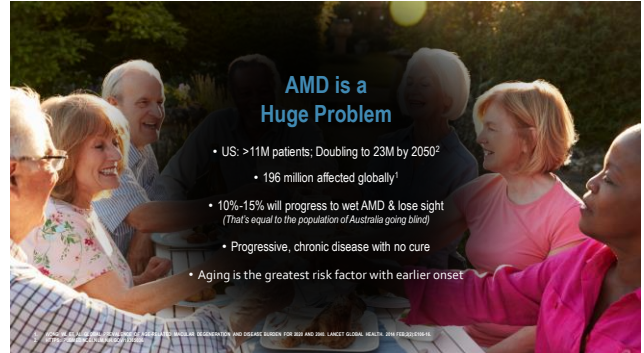
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Disclosures:

Dr. Earley is a Paid Consultant and Key Opinion Leader (KOL) for Alcon Vision Care, Notal Vision, MacuHealth, Lumithera (pending) and LKC Technologies. He also serves on their Speakers Bureau.



AMD is a Huge Problem

- US: >11M patients; Doubling to 23M by 2050²
- 196 million affected globally¹
- 10%-15% will progress to wet AMD & lose sight (That's equal to the population of Australia going blind)
- Progressive, chronic disease with no cure
- Aging is the greatest risk factor with earlier onset

A Brief History of AMD Diagnosis and Management

- I graduated from PCO in 1998 – no dry treatment; focal laser for wet
- I was trained to monitor dry disease, dispense Amsler, discuss UV protection
- PDT (PhotoDynamic Therapy) approved in 1999 – treatment for wet AMD
- AREDs findings released 2001 – intermediate dry or worse; role of supplements
- First OCT in 1996; OCT-2 in 2000; Stratus OCT in 2006
- First anti-VEGF in 2005 (off-label), first on-label use in 2006
- AREDs2 – began in 2006; results in 2013 – safer/more effective supplements
- Use of PHP for the detection of metamorphopsia in dry to wet conversion (2009)
- Discovery of Dark Adaptation as earliest biomarker for AMD (ALSTAR 2016)

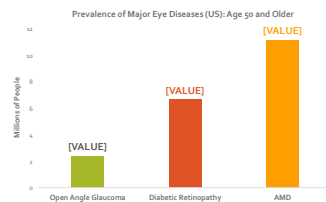
And the Innovations Continue...

- Use of Anti-VEGF medications that are longer-lasting
- Introduction of Home-Based Testing for conversion from Dry to Wet AMD
- FDA approval for the use of injectables to treat Geographic Atrophy (GA)
- Use in Europe of photobiomodulation to treat early and intermediate AMD
- Oral medications in FDA clinical trial show promise
- MANY OF THE NEW THERAPIES ARE LIKELY TO BE OPTOMETRY DRIVEN!

Leading Cause of Legal Blindness in the US *

Do you diagnose AMD as often as DR and POAG combined in your practice?

Clinical AMD is more prevalent than glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy combined



Primary Eye Care is Missing Visible Disease Using Today's Standard Workup



1288 eyes from 644 people

- Mean age of 69.4
- 36% male
- 64% female

- ✓ 25% of "normal patients" had findings consistent with AMD
- ✓ 30% of missed AMD eyes had large drusen (Intermediate AMD)
- ✓ MDs and ODs miss AMD diagnosis equally

Chen, JAMA Ophthalmol 2022;30(8):959-965

As Clinicians, it is Frustrating That Our Patients are Still Presenting for Anti-VEGF Treatment Having Already Suffered Irreversible Vision Loss

Mean VA at diagnosis of nAMD in the 1st eye:







Mean VA at diagnosis of nAMD in the 2nd eye:



SOURCE: COMPARISON OF ANTI-VEGF THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH NEOVASCULAR AMD. ET AL. THE LANCET. 2015;385(9977):101-10. | CLARK T.W. ET AL. OPHTHALMOLOGY. 2014;123(12):2425-32. | HO ET AL. OPHTHALMOLOGY. 2015;124(12):2425-32. | WATSON ET AL. OPHTHALMOLOGY. 2015;124(12):2425-32.

The Beckman Classification 4 Stages of AMD

PROGRESSION	No AMD		No drusen or small drusen $\leq 63 \mu\text{m}$ No AMD pigmentary abnormalities
	Early AMD		Medium drusen $> 63 \mu\text{m}$ and $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ No AMD pigmentary abnormalities
	Intermediate AMD		1 large druse $> 125 \mu\text{m}$ and/or Any AMD pigmentary abnormalities
	Advanced AMD		2 forms: Geographic Atrophy and Neovascular AMD

Healthy Choriocapillaris, Bruch's, RPE, and Photoreceptors



Cholesterol Barrier Deposited Along Bruch's and RPE



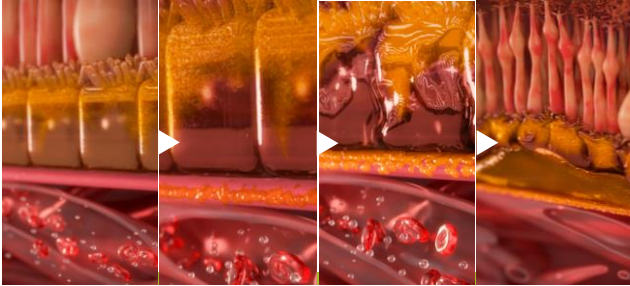
RPE Secretes Even More Cholesterol and Degenerates



Visibly Evident Drusen on Fundus Evaluation



Disease Process of AMD Starts Below the RPE!



Impaired Dark Adaptation is Earliest Biomarker of AMD

RESEARCH SHOWS:
Impaired dark adaptation
identifies subclinical AMD
**at least three
years before**
it can be seen with imaging,
OCT or clinical exam.

UAB ALSTAR Study

Prospective Study of Subclinical AMD

- Sample consisted of 325 adult's w/o clinically detectable AMD
- At baseline, 24% of the subjects exhibited impaired dark adaptation
- AMD status determined at 3-year follow-up visit

sources: Owsley, C et al. Ophthalmology. 2016;123(5):344-351

What IS Dark Adaptometry?

- Dark Adaptometry is the time it takes for the macular ROD photoreceptors to recover from a bleaching event.
- The photoreceptors that are bleached are slightly superior to the fovea centralis (this allows for normal fixation during testing)
- A normal adult macula will recover from a bleaching event in 6.5 minutes or less!
- If the adaptation time is greater than 6.5 minutes, this indicates a reduced macular pigment function; the lack of pigment leads to an outsize dose of light hitting the photoreceptors causing a delayed adaptation time
- The RODS are tested (not the cones) because they outnumber the cones and are active in scotopic conditions (patients with poor macular pigment will describe difficulty driving at night)

This Leads to a More Comprehensive AMD Classification System: Structure + FUNCTION!

PROGRESSION	No AMD		No drusen or small drusen $\leq 63 \mu\text{m}$ No AMD pigmentary abnormalities Normal dark adaptation
	Subclinical AMD	RI	No drusen or small drusen $\leq 63 \mu\text{m}$ No AMD pigmentary abnormalities Impaired dark adaptation
	Early AMD		Medium drusen $> 63 \mu\text{m}$ and $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ No AMD pigmentary abnormalities Impaired dark adaptation
	Intermediate AMD		1 large druse $> 125 \mu\text{m}$ and/or Any AMD pigmentary abnormalities Impaired dark adaptation
	Advanced AMD		2 forms: Geographic Atrophy and Neovascular AMD

Dark Adaptometry Validated in Multi-Site Study

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
HERSHEY College of Medicine

High Sensitivity
Correctly identified
90.6%
of confirmed AMD cases

High Specificity
Correctly identified
90.5%
of confirmed normal cases

High Accuracy
90.6%
overall

sources: Jackson GR, et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2014;55(9):4427-4431

Using Dark Adaptometry in Clinical Practice Allows for Enhanced Confidence When Managing All Stages of AMD

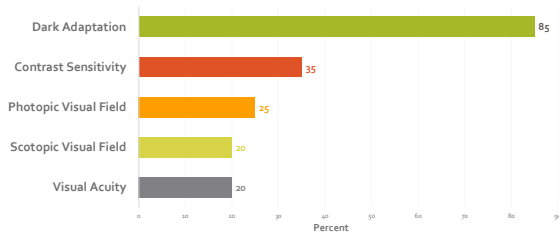
You can find
AMD three
years earlier
with dark
adaptation
testing.

Impaired dark
adaptation is
90% sensitive
to the
presence of
AMD.

Dark
adaptation
testing can
help you
monitor
progression of
AMD.

(maculogix)

Comparing Diagnostic Sensitivity for Identifying AMD



Goldman-Weekers Dark Adaptometer

- Manual dark adaptometer
- High patient burden
- Expert technician required
- Used in academic clinics for research and retinal degeneration diagnosis



Roland Consult Dark Adaptometer

- Automated dark adaptometer
- Interfaces with external computer
- No automated analysis



First Automated Dark Adaptometer Available for Clinical Use



- ✓ Easy to administer
- ✓ Low patient burden
- ✓ Reimbursable (CPT 92284)
- ✓ Objective output (Rod Intercept)
- ✓ Rapid & Extended Tests
- ✓ FDA 510(k) Cleared & CE Mark

Head-Mounted Dark Adaptometer Now Available for Clinical Use

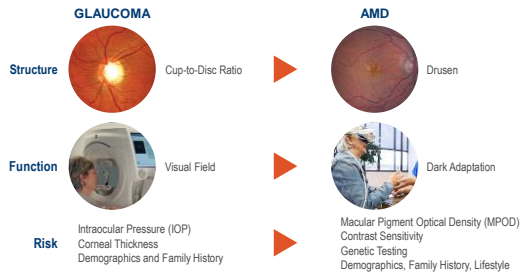


Wearable Diagnostic Testing: Here to Stay!!

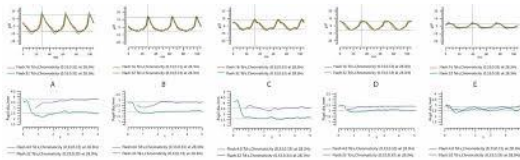
- Head-Mounted VR-style Diagnostic Testing Offers Advantages Over Traditional Larger-Footprint Devices
 - Frees Up Our Technicians
 - Does Not Confine Testing to a Pretest Room
 - Easy to Adjust/Customize for a Comfortable Experience
 - Consistency of Testing with AI



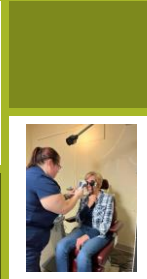
Standard of Care Comparison: Two Multifactorial Diseases



ANOTHER RECENT
OBJECTIVE,
FUNCTIONAL TEST
OF
MACULAR/RETINAL
HEALTH...



IN CHRONIC **RETINAL/MACULAR/ONH** DISEASE, THE SPEED OF THE LIGHT SIGNAL AND THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL ARE REDUCED BY DEAD/DYING CELLS



Clinically Useful
Objective Measure of
Retinal Function:

- Hand-held
- Portable
- Tech-driven
- Clinical Utility High; Several disease states can be managed
- Low patient burden; well-tolerated
- Used when subjective testing is not reliable

AMD Risk Factors



Aging



Family History and Genetics



Environment:
Smoking
Physical Activity
Social Activities
Alcohol consumption
Low MPOD



Misinformation about Tx



NUTRITION



Cardiovascular disease:
Hypertension, high cholesterol, stroke, heart disease

Practical AMD Treatments

Once detected, early treatment and lifestyle modifications can slow disease progression

Proven Treatments/Preventive Options



Smoking Cessation



Nutritional Supplementation



Diet & Exercise



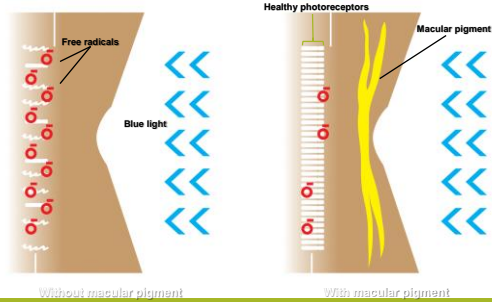
Systemic Disease Management



Retinal Light Protection

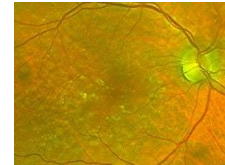
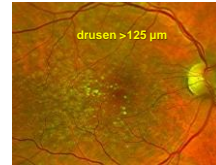
Leading optometrists agree: Practical treatments should be used for ALL STAGES OF AMD to slow progression and improve outcomes.

MPOD: Oxidation / inflammation feedback



Late Exposure to Supplementation Can Make a Difference Too: Reduction of drusen in AMD

Case: 67 YOWM, L, Z, MZ x 12 months – OD
(courtesy Gary Morgan)



Role of Oxidative Stress in Disease

Free Radicals Caused By:

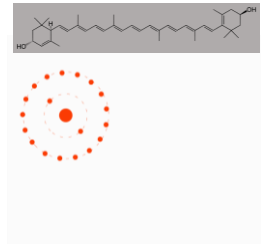
- Cellular Metabolism
- The Environment
- Lifestyle & Choices



Reduced by Antioxidants

Chemical structure of lutein

- There are many antioxidants in our diet: Vitamins C, E, Zinc, Lutein, Zeaxanthin and Meso-Zeaxanthin to name a few...
- Antioxidants donate / accept electrons to stabilize singlet oxygen
- Only 3 antioxidants present at the macula: Lutein, Zeaxanthin, Meso-Zeaxanthin



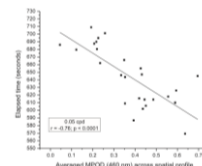
High vs. Low MPOD: Glare Disability Reduced



Strickland & Hammond. Optom Vision Sci. 2008;85:42-46; Hammond et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2014;55(2):650-4; Noller et al. (2016); Strickland et al. (2016)

Dark Adaptation Speed

Suggests increased visual cycle efficiency promoted by macular carotenoids



Joan Strickland et al.
2014
*Joan Strickland & Hammond, 2008; Hammond et al., 2016; Parry et al. 2012; Hammond et al. 2014; Strickland et al. 2016

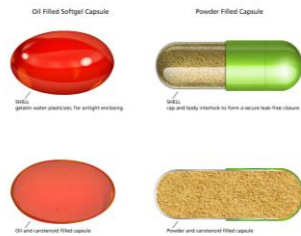


Formulation and Manufacturing Matter

Some forms of encapsulation are extremely vulnerable to oxidation & light exposure

- A recent study found that of 46 supplements tested, 61% did not meet the amount claimed on the label for carotenoid content

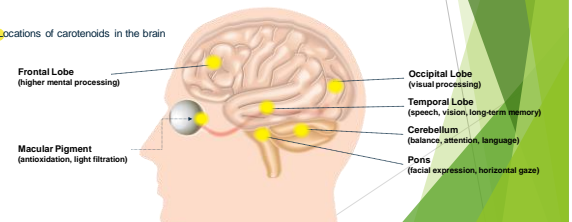
<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study?term=carotenoid&rank=1>



Support Cognitive Function

Carotenoid deposition in the brain improves visual processing and overall cognitive function measures.

Locations of carotenoids in the brain



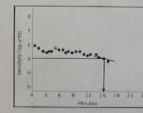
Case Study

- 63 year-old female with history of Rheumatoid Arthritis
- On Plaquenil 200mg PO 3-4x/week
- Family Hx of AMD; pt. never a smoker
- BCVA 20/20, OU but patient reports "I try not to drive at night; I feel very light sensitive and it's getting worse"
- SLE/fundus photography of macula shows no foveal reflex with subtle areas of RPE changes but no drusen or focal atrophy

Dark Adaptation Test Results for

DOB: 02-15-1957, Patient ID: 1787

Test Eye: Right
Test Date: 01-04-2019 09:52
Age at Test: 61
Protocol: Extended Test
Pupil Size: 5.50 mm
Prescription: +1.50 -1.00 x 97°
Trial Lens: +4.50 x1.00 x 97°

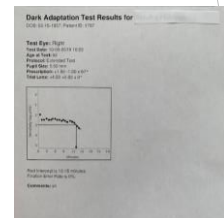
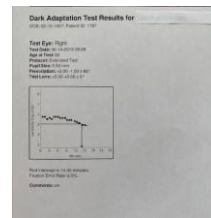


Rod Intercept is 10:28 minutes.
Fixation Error Rate is 4%.

Comments: 01

Prescribed Carotenoid Supplementation

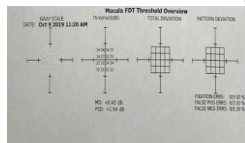
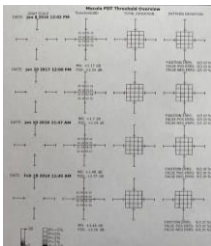
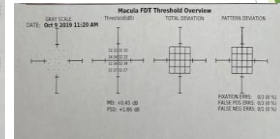
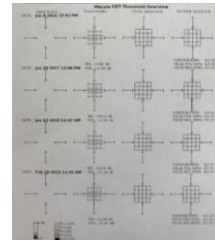
- Discussed with patient the potential for RPE damage from her high-risk medication as well as her risk for AMD (reduced night vision and family history)
- Prescribed triple-carotenoid supplement containing
 - Zeaxanthin
 - Lutein
 - Meso-Zeaxanthin



► Rod Intercept time improved in same eye (OD):

- January 2019: **15.38** minutes (4% fixation error rate)
- June 2019: **14.30** minutes (5% fixation error rate)
- October 2019: **13.15** minutes (0% fixation error rate)

In this case, RI was not the only improvement we have found.....



A MODERN APPROACH TO AMD DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

- AMD is a disease that we see in our practices every day
 - Optometry has a role to play in the early diagnosis, education and treatment of this potentially blinding disease
 - We NEED to be having conversations with our patients about AMD!
- Optometry is Positioned to Lead the Charge!!**

SWITCHING GEARS... HOW DO WE MANAGE HIGH-RISK DRY AMD??



At-risk Patients May Convert to Wet AMD at Any Point Between Follow-up Visits



Reference: Branch R, et al. Retina 2012;32(7):1240-1244.

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Amsler grid alone has limited ability to detect visual changes

Accurately taking the test^{1,2}

- Fixation
- Testing distance
- Test questions
- Compliance

Cortical completion¹

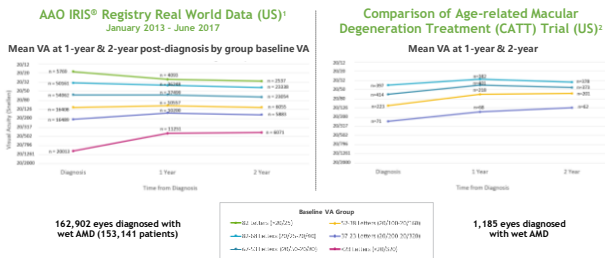
Low sensitivity; subjectivity exam to exam, patient to patient¹

References: 1. Sperduto R, Sperduto L. Ophthalmol Res. 2015;5(1):24-30. 2. Hsu J, et al. Arch Ophthalmol. 2007;125(11):1774-8. 3. Li Y, et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2015;133(10):1465-70. 4. Wong JY, et al. Ophthalmology. 2008;115(11):1454.

A Perfect Combination for Poor Visual Acuity at Wet AMD Diagnosis

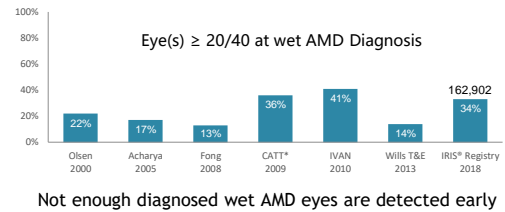


Real-world data supports clinical trial results: early diagnosis with good VA is essential to preserve functional vision with anti-VEGF therapy

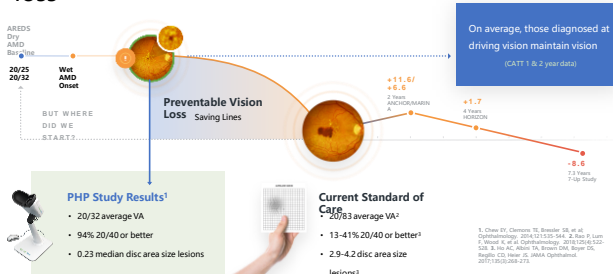


Clinical trial and real-world data show small proportion of patients with good VA at initiation of anti-VEGF therapy

Intermediate AMD patients who convert to wet AMD lose a substantial amount of vision before detection and treatment



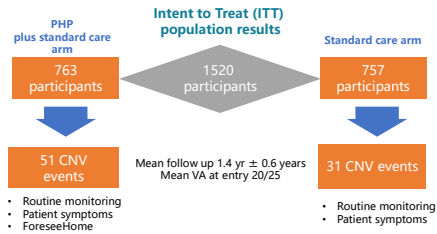
Readjusting our point of view to preventable vision loss



To detect wet AMD earlier we need...



AREDS2-HOME Study

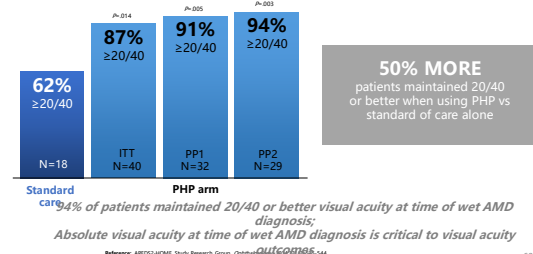


*Primary outcome: Change in BCVA from baseline to CNV detection

Reference: AREDS2-HOME Study Research Group. Ophthalmology. 2014;121(2):535-544.

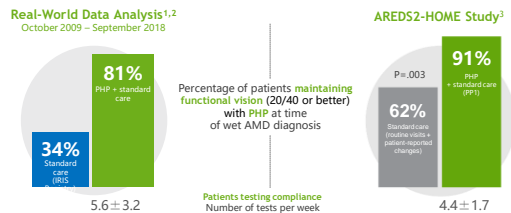
68

More patients who used PHP maintained $\geq 20/40$ VA



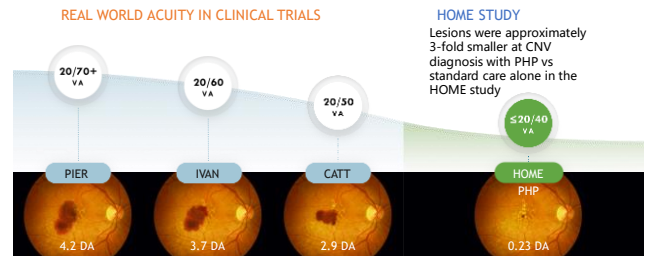
69

PHP real-world performance resembles pivotal trial results

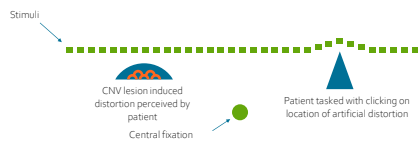


IRIS Registry demonstrates few newly diagnosed CNV eyes are detected early

Visual Acuity and Lesion Size at diagnosis of wet AMD



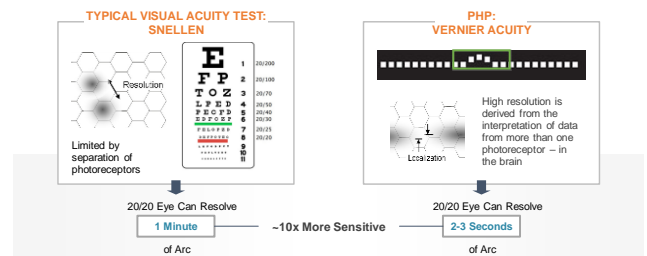
PREFERENTIAL Hyperacuity Perimetry (PHP) delivers accurate, highly sensitive, specific disease detection



Reference: Hyperacuity

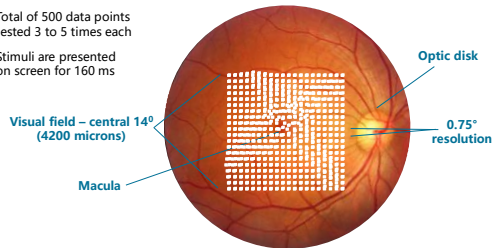
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Preferential HYPERACUITY Perimetry



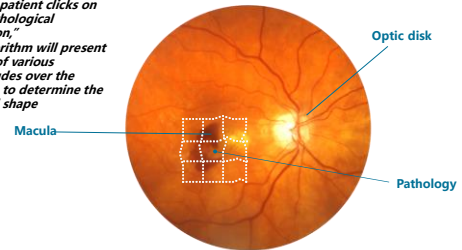
PERIMETRY: The Home PHP Test

Total of 500 data points
tested 3 to 5 times each
Stimuli are presented
on screen for 160 ms

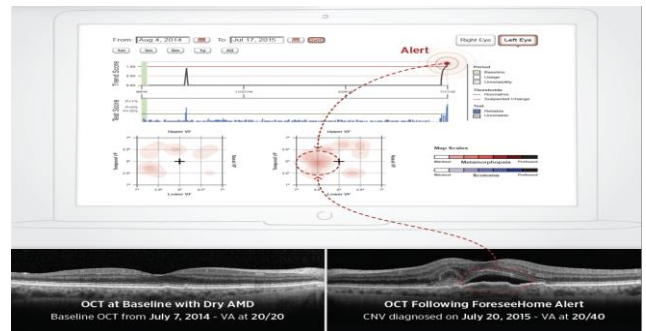
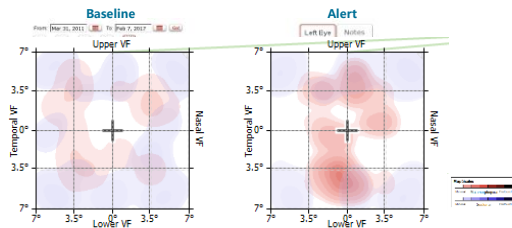


Once pathology is suspected, the area is bracketed to localize and quantify pathology

When a patient clicks on the "pathological distortion," the algorithm will present stimuli of various magnitudes over the location to determine the size and shape



After pathology is quantified and localized, an Alert Metamorphopsia Map is generated

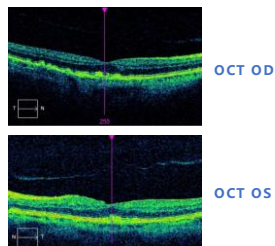


CASE 1

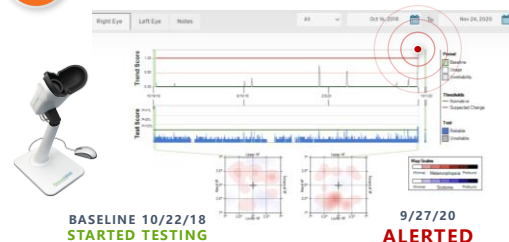
→ Initial Exam (OU): 10/5/18


October 5, 2018:

- Patient referred for evaluation of possible age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- VA CC 20/30⁻¹ OU
- Found to have intermediate dry AMD OU
- Referred to Vision Diagnostic Clinic for Home-based PHP program OU and prescribed high-quality carotenoid supplement



CASE 1 Baseline 10/22/18: VA 20/30⁻¹ (OD) prior to alert



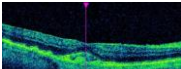


CASE 1


Exam Post-Alert (OD): 10/1/20

October 1, 2020:

- Patient returned to clinic following PHP Alert on 9/27/20 OD
- VA CC 20/40⁻¹ OD, 20/30⁻² OS
- New SRF noted on OCT OD (images highlight the area of prominent fluid)
- Patient received an injection of ranibizumab 0.5 mg OD
- No prior alerts while using home-based PHP



OCT OD




CASE 1

→

Exam Post-Injection (OD): 11/3/20

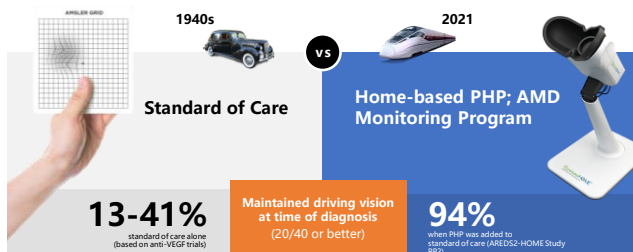
November 3, 2020:

- Patient returned for follow-up after first injection OD
- VA CC 20/20⁻² OD, 20/25⁻² OS
- SRF resolved OD (images of the highlighted area again)
- Patient received second injection out of the planned three



OCT OD

At-home monitoring for conversion to wet AMD



Home-based PHP is appropriate for the type of patients you see every day

Unilateral or bilateral dry intermediate AMD

Wet AMD in one eye and dry intermediate AMD in fellow eye

PATIENTS MUST HAVE			Patients taking high-quality macular vitamins are often good candidates for Home-based PHP
H35.3112 Dry intermediate Right eye	H35.3122 Dry intermediate Left eye	H35.3132 Dry intermediate Bilateral	



Set up and daily tests are quick and easy for patients

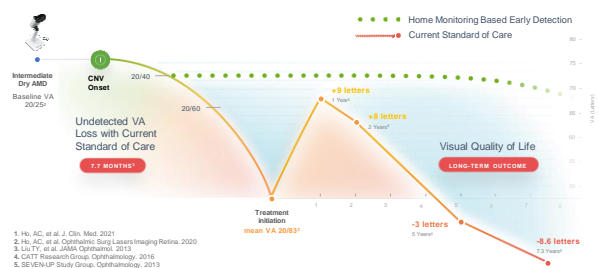
1 Patient uses mouse to click where artificial distortion (bump or wave in the dotted line) appeared on the screen

2 PHP (Preferential Hyperacuity Perimetry) is used to detect tiny changes in the central visual field, including metamorphopsia and scotoma

3 Data from each test is sent to the Vision Diagnostic Clinic for evaluation and monthly reports are emailed to practice; available 24/7 on the ECP (Eye Care Professional) Portal

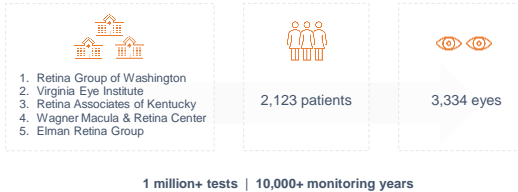
Alert is sent when a significant change compared to baseline occurs, indicating possible AMD progression

Summary: Average nAMD Patient Journey



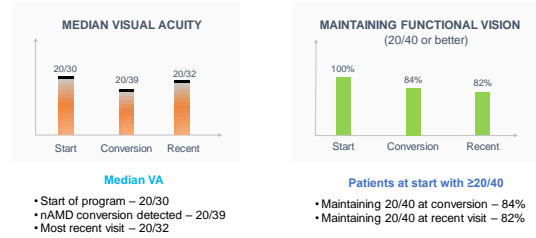
ALOFT Study Design

Large retrospective study involving **all referred patients** from 5 clinics over 10 years



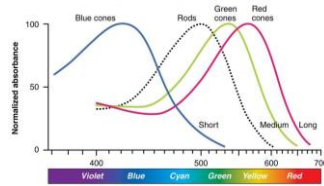
[86]

ALOFT Study: Visual Acuity Results



[87]

Pipeline Technologies in AMD Treatment



Home-based OCT

Photobiomodulation

Treatments for GA (Geographic Atrophy) -

Medications for Geographic Atrophy (GA)

- Pegcetacoplan (Syfovre)**
 - Slows the progression of lesion growth in GA
 - Complement C3 inhibitor
 - Monthly injection reduced lesion growth by 22% (Oaks Phase 3 trial)
- Avacincaptad pegol (Izervay)**
 - Also slows progression
 - Targets excessive activation of the complement system; blocks C5 protein
 - Reduced lesion growth rate by 35% (Gather1 and Gather2 trials)

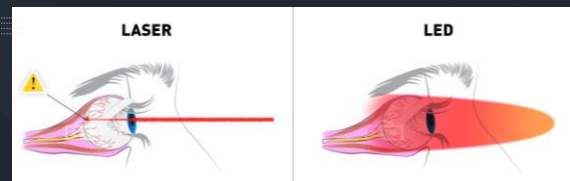
What's Next?

- It is likely that the next intravitreal medications will combine the C3 and C5 protein-inhibitors and affect the complement cascade in more than one area...



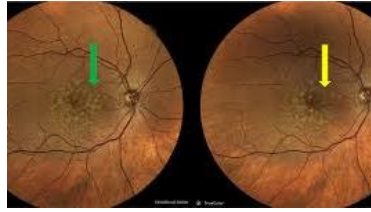
LASER vs. Photobiomodulation – not the same!

- Focused Laser can be harmful
- Diffuse Red and other wavelengths act on Mitochondria
- Wavelengths used are critical
- Studies: – LightSite III 24-month data recently published





Small Footpring Device – Uses LED light; not lasers



• Valeda Light Delivery System currently before the FDA for consideration as a "Class II device" - will likely be available for use in U.S. as early as Summer 2024

Uses of Photobiomodulation in Eyecare:

- Treatment is performed without optical correction
- Total treatment time for both eyes is <10 minutes/treatment
- Treatment 3x/week for 3-4 weeks
- LightSite III used three wavelengths of light; all shown to reduce inflammation and improve retinal mitochondrial function
- Fewer PBM eyes were found to progress to GA compared to the sham group:
 - 6.8% vs. 24%

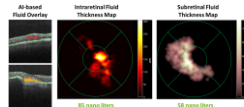
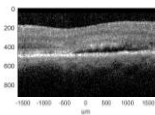
Home OCT for monitoring chronic therapy of neovascular AMD between office visits

- Monitoring of intra- and subretinal fluid based on daily patient self-imaging
- Easy-to-use, patient-operated device
- Takes less than one minute per eye
- AI algorithm analyzes images on cloud
- Remote diagnostic clinic, provider of monitoring program, reports changes meeting physician-selected fluid volume thresholds to referring physician
- 24/7 physician access to all data

Home Device



Home OCT Image



THANK YOU!!!

