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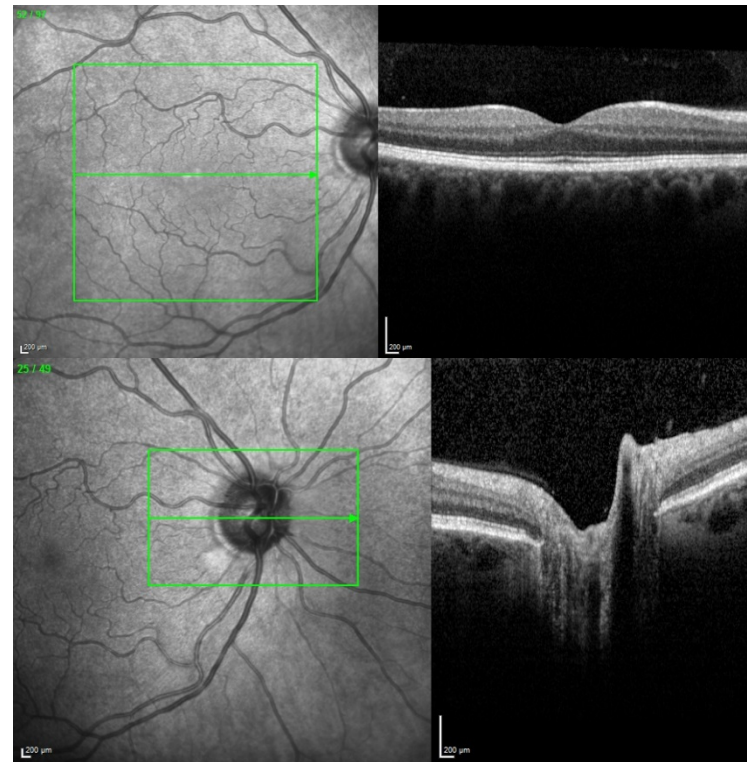
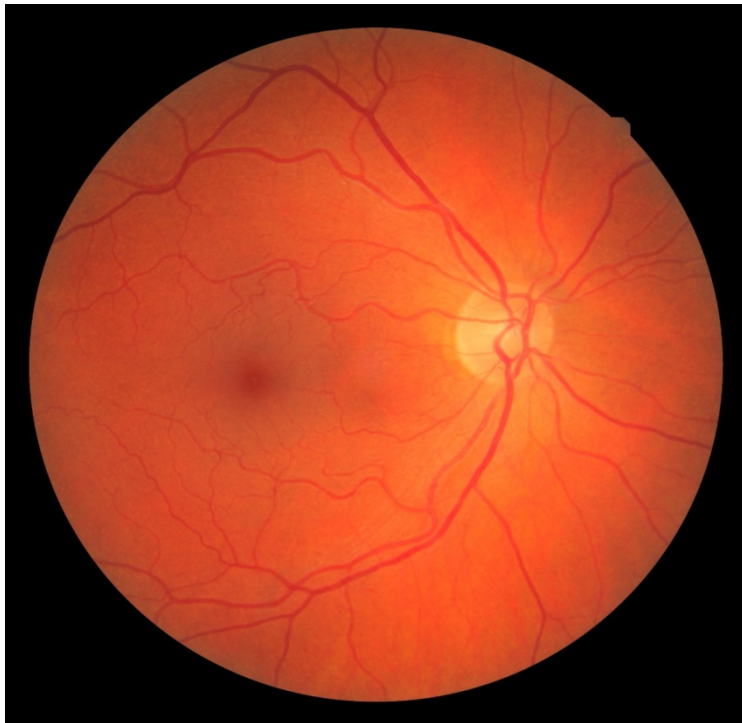
# “Quantitative Netzhaut- Phänotypisierung bei früher Altersbedingter Makuladegeneration

Franziska Rauscher, LIFE & IMISE  
und Marcus Wagner, IMISE

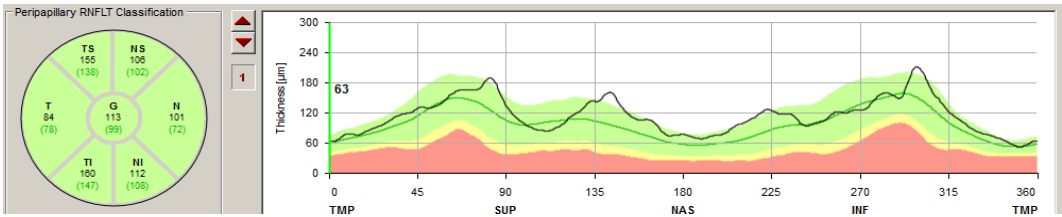
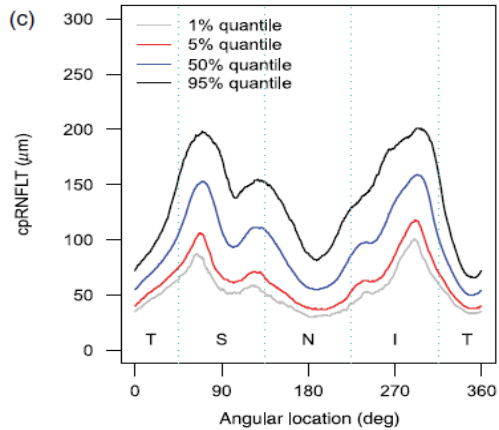
## Warum gibt es eine Augenuntersuchung in einer bevölkerungsbasierten Studie

- Die Retina ist ein direkt zugänglicher Teil des zentralen Nervensystems
- Nicht-invasive Bildgebung mittels SD-OCT möglich
- Retinale Veränderungen spiegeln wider (u.a.):
  - metabolische Dysfunktion
  - Gefäßerkrankungen
  - Neurodegeneration
  - Alterungsprozesse

## LIFE Adult Augenuntersuchung



# LIFE Adult Augenuntersuchung



# Publikationen (Auswahl)

- Normative Daten der retinalen Nervenfaserschicht

# The Leipzig Health Atlas-An Open Platform to Present, Archive, and Share Biomedical Data, Analyses, and Models Online. *Methods Inf Med.* 2022

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Original Article e103

## The Leipzig Health Atlas—An Open Platform to Present, Archive, and Share Biomedical Data, Analyses, and Models Online

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Thomas Peschel<sup>2</sup> Heinrich Herre<sup>2</sup> Jonas Wagner<sup>2,3</sup> Silke Zachariae<sup>2</sup> Christoph Engel<sup>2,3</sup>  
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*Methods Inf Med* 2022;61:e103–e115.

### Abstract

#### Keywords

- FAIR
- data semantics
- research data

**Background** Clinical trials, epidemiological studies, clinical registries, and other prospective research projects, together with patient care services, are main sources of data in the medical research domain. They serve often as a basis for secondary research in evidence-based medicine, prediction models for disease, and its progression. This data are often neither sufficiently described nor accessible. Related models

# Feasibility and repeatability of ocular biometry measured with IOLMaster 700 in a large population-based study. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2023

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



## Feasibility and repeatability of ocular biometry measured with IOLMaster 700 in a large population-based study

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** To evaluate the feasibility and repeatability of IOLMaster 700 biometry measurements in an adult population. Furthermore, to assess the value of the Quality Indicators (QIs) provided by the device.

**Method:** As part of the large population-based Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases (LIFE) Adult-Study, randomly selected participants from Leipzig, Germany were evaluated with the ZEISS IOLMaster 700. Age range was 26–85 years, with 53% of participants above 70 years of age. Axial length (AL), cen-

# Sex-Specific Differences in Circumpapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness. *Ophthalmology*. 2020



## HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

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### Sex-Specific Differences in Circumpapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness

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#### Abstract

Author Manuscript

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# Norms of Interocular Circumpapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Differences at 768 Retinal Locations. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2020

tvst

Article

## Norms of Interocular Circumpapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Differences at 768 Retinal Locations

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**Received:** March 26, 2020

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**Published:** August 12, 2020

**Purpose:** The onset and progression of optic neuropathies like glaucoma often occurs asymmetrically between the two eyes of a patient. Interocular circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness (cpRNFLT) differences could detect disease earlier. To apply such differences diagnostically, detailed location specific norms are necessary.

**Methods:** Spectral-domain optical coherence tomography cpRNFLT circle scans from the population-based Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases-Adult study were selected. At each of the 768 radial scanning locations, normative interocular cpRNFLT difference distributions were calculated based on age and interocular radius difference.

**Results:** A total of 8966 cpRNFLT scans of healthy eyes (4483 patients; 55% female; age

# Age, ocular magnification, and circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness. J Biomed Opt. 2017

Journal of Biomedical Optics 22(12), 121718 (December 2017)

## Age, ocular magnification, and circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness

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**Abstract.** Optical coherence tomography (OCT) manufacturers graphically present circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness (cpRNFLT) together with normative limits to support clinicians in diagnosing ophthalmic diseases. The impact of age on cpRNFLT is typically implemented by linear models. cpRNFLT is strongly location-specific, whereas previously published norms are typically restricted to coarse sectors and based on small populations. Furthermore, OCT devices neglect impacts of lens or eye size on the diameter of the cpRNFLT scan circle so that the diameter substantially varies over different eyes. We investigate the impact of age and scan diameter reported by Spectralis spectral-domain OCT on cpRNFLT in 5646 subjects with healthy eyes. We provide cpRNFLT by age and diameter at 768 angular locations. Age/diameter were significantly related to cpRNFLT on 89%/92% of the circle, respectively (pointwise linear regression), and to shifts in cpRNFLT peak locations. For subjects from age 42.1 onward but not below, increasing age significantly decreased scan diameter ( $r = -0.28$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), which suggests that pathological cpRNFLT thinning over time may be underestimated in elderly compared to younger subjects, as scan diameter decrease correlated with cpRNFLT increase. Our detailed numerical results may help to generate various correction models to improve diagnosing and monitoring optic neuropathies. © 2017 Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) [DOI: 10.1117/1.JBO.22.12.121718]

# Publikationen interdisziplinär

- Gehirn und Auge
- Diabetes und Auge
- Niere und Auge
- Leber und Auge
- .....

# Retinal nerve fibre layer thickness reflects characteristics of brain grey and white matter. *Imaging Neurosci (Camb)*. 2026



## Retinal nerve fibre layer thickness reflects characteristics of brain grey and white matter

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Retinal nerve fibre layer thickness is associated with attention and predicts risk states of dementia. Brain Commun. 2025

<https://doi.org/10.1093/braincomms/fcaf464>

BRAIN COMMUNICATIONS 2025: fcaf464 | 1

## BRAIN COMMUNICATIONS

### Retinal nerve fibre layer thickness is associated with attention and predicts risk states of dementia

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Francisca S. Rodriguez,<sup>6,7</sup> Gordon T. Plant,<sup>8</sup> Barbara Wicklein,<sup>4</sup> Kerstin Wirkner,<sup>3,4</sup>  
Christoph Engel,<sup>3,4</sup> Jana Kynast,<sup>1</sup> Christian Girbardt,<sup>9</sup> Mengyu Wang,<sup>10</sup>  
Maryna Polyakova,<sup>1</sup> Andreas Hinz,<sup>11</sup> A. Veronica Witte,<sup>1,3</sup> Toralf Kirsten,<sup>3,4,12</sup>  
Markus Loeffler,<sup>3,4</sup> Arno Villringer,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Steffi G. Riedel-Heller,<sup>3,6</sup> Tobias Elze<sup>3,10,†</sup>  
and Franziska G. Rauscher<sup>3,4,12,7</sup>

\* These authors contributed equally to this work.

† These authors contributed equally to this work.


# Glucose tolerance and insulin resistance/sensitivity associate with retinal layer characteristics: the LIFE-Adult-Study. Diabetologia. 2024

Diabetologia (2024) 67:928–939  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00125-024-06093-9>

ARTICLE



## Glucose tolerance and insulin resistance/sensitivity associate with retinal layer characteristics: the LIFE-Adult-Study

Franziska G. Rauscher<sup>1,2,8</sup> · Tobias Elze<sup>1,3</sup> · Mike Francke<sup>2</sup> · M. Elena Martinez-Perez<sup>4</sup> · Yangjiani Li<sup>3</sup> · Kerstin Wirkner<sup>1,2</sup> · Anke Tönjes<sup>5</sup> · Christoph Engel<sup>1,2</sup> · Joachim Thiery<sup>1,6</sup> · Matthias Blüher<sup>5,7</sup> · Michael Stumvoll<sup>5</sup> · Toralf Kirsten<sup>1,2,8</sup> · Markus Loeffler<sup>1,2</sup> · Thomas Ebert<sup>5</sup>  · Mengyu Wang<sup>1,3</sup>

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### Abstract

**Aims/hypothesis** As the prevalence of insulin resistance and glucose intolerance is increasing throughout the world, diabetes-induced eye diseases are a global health burden. We aim to identify distinct optical bands which are closely related to insulin and glucose metabolism, using non-invasive, high-resolution spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) in a large, population-based dataset.

Phenome- and genome-wide analyses of retinal optical coherence tomography images identify links between ocular and systemic health.

























Sci Transl Med. 2024

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RESEARCH ARTICLE | RETINAL IMAGING f X t in r w e

## Phenome- and genome-wide analyses of retinal optical coherence tomography images identify links between ocular and systemic health

SEYEDEH MARYAM ZEKAVAT , SAMAN DOROODGAR JORSHERY , FRANZISKA G. RAUSCHER , KATRIN HORN , SAYURI SEKIMITSU , SATOSHI KOYAMA ,  
TRANG T. NGUYEN , MARIA C. COSTANZO , DONGKEUN JANG , NOÉL P. BURTT , ANDREAS KÜHNAPFEL , YUSRAH SHWEIKH , YIXUAN YE , VINEET RAGHU ,  
HONGYU ZHAO , MARZYEH GHASSEMI , TOBIAS ELZE , AYLLET V. SEGRÈ , JANEY L. WIGGS , LUCIAN DEL PRIORE , MARKUS SCHOLZ , JAY C. WANG ,  
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SCIENCE TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE • 24 Jan 2024 • Vol 16, Issue 731 • DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.adq4517

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# Association of Systemic Medication Use with Glaucoma and Intraocular Pressure: The European Eye Epidemiology Consortium. Ophthalmology. 2023



## Association of Systemic Medication Use with Glaucoma and Intraocular Pressure

*The European Eye Epidemiology Consortium*

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Wishal D. Ramdas, MD, PhD,<sup>1,†</sup> Anthony P. Khawaja, MD, PhD,<sup>4,11,†</sup> on behalf of the European Eye  
Epidemiology Consortium

**Purpose:** To investigate the association of commonly used systemic medications with glaucoma and intraocular pressure (IOP) in the European population.

**Design:** Meta-analysis of 11 population-based cohort studies of the European Eye Epidemiology Consortium.

**Participants:** The glaucoma analyses included 143 240 participants and the IOP analyses included 47 177 participants.

# Association of lipid-lowering drugs and antidiabetic drugs with age-related macular degeneration: a meta-analysis in Europeans. Br J Ophthalmol. 2023

British Journal of  
**Ophthalmology**

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




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## Association of lipid-lowering drugs and antidiabetic drugs with age-related macular degeneration: a meta-analysis in Europeans

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### Abstract

**Background/aims** To investigate the association of commonly used systemic medications with prevalent age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in the general population.

**Methods** We included 38 694 adults from 14 population-based and hospital-based studies from the European Eye Epidemiology consortium. We examined associations between the use of systemic medications and any prevalent AMD as well as any late AMD using multivariable logistic regression modelling per study and pooled results using random effects meta-analysis.

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Reading cognition from the eyes: association of retinal nerve fibre layer thickness with cognitive performance in a population-based study.

Brain Commun. 2021

doi:10.1093/braincomms/fcab258

BRAIN COMMUNICATIONS 2021: Page 1 of 16 | 1

BRAIN COMMUNICATIONS

## Reading cognition from the eyes: association of retinal nerve fibre layer thickness with cognitive performance in a population-based study

Johanna Girbardt,<sup>1,2</sup> Tobias Luck,<sup>3</sup> Jana Kynast,<sup>2</sup> Francisca S. Rodriguez,<sup>4,5</sup> Barbara Wicklein,<sup>1</sup> Kerstin Wirkner,<sup>1,6</sup>  Christoph Engel,<sup>1,6</sup> Christian Girbardt,<sup>7</sup> Mengyu Wang,<sup>8</sup>  Maryna Polyakova,<sup>2</sup> A. Veronica Witte,<sup>2,6</sup> Markus Loeffler,<sup>1,6</sup>  Arno Villringer,<sup>2,6,9</sup> Steffi G. Riedel-Heller,<sup>4,6</sup> Matthias L. Schroeter,<sup>2,6,9</sup>  Tobias Elze<sup>6,8,\*</sup> and  Franziska G. Rauscher<sup>1,6,\*</sup>

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# Renal function and lipid metabolism are major predictors of circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness—the LIFE-Adult Study. BMC Med. 2021

Rauscher et al. *BMC Medicine* (2021) 19:202  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-021-02064-8>


BMC Medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## Renal function and lipid metabolism are major predictors of circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness—the LIFE-Adult Study



Franziska G. Rauscher<sup>1,2†</sup>, Mengyu Wang<sup>1,3†</sup>, Mike Francke<sup>2</sup>, Kerstin Wirkner<sup>1,2</sup>, Anke Tönjes<sup>4</sup>, Christoph Engel<sup>1,2</sup>, Joachim Thiery<sup>1,5</sup>, Peter Stenvinkel<sup>6</sup>, Michael Stumvoll<sup>4</sup>, Markus Loeffler<sup>1,2</sup>, Tobias Elze<sup>1,3†</sup> and Thomas Ebert<sup>4,6†</sup> 

### Abstract

**Background:** Circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness (cpRNFLT) as assessed by spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) is a new technique used for the detection and evaluation of glaucoma and other

# Systemic and Ocular Determinants of Peripapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Measurements in the European Eye Epidemiology (E3) Population. Ophthalmology. 2018

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE · Volume 125, Issue 10, P1526-1536, October 2018

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## Systemic and Ocular Determinants of Peripapillary Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Measurements in the European Eye Epidemiology (E3) Population

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# Genome-wide association meta-analysis for early age-related macular degeneration highlights novel loci and insights for advanced disease.

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BMC Medical Genomics

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## Genome-wide association meta-analysis for early age-related macular degeneration highlights novel loci and insights for advanced disease

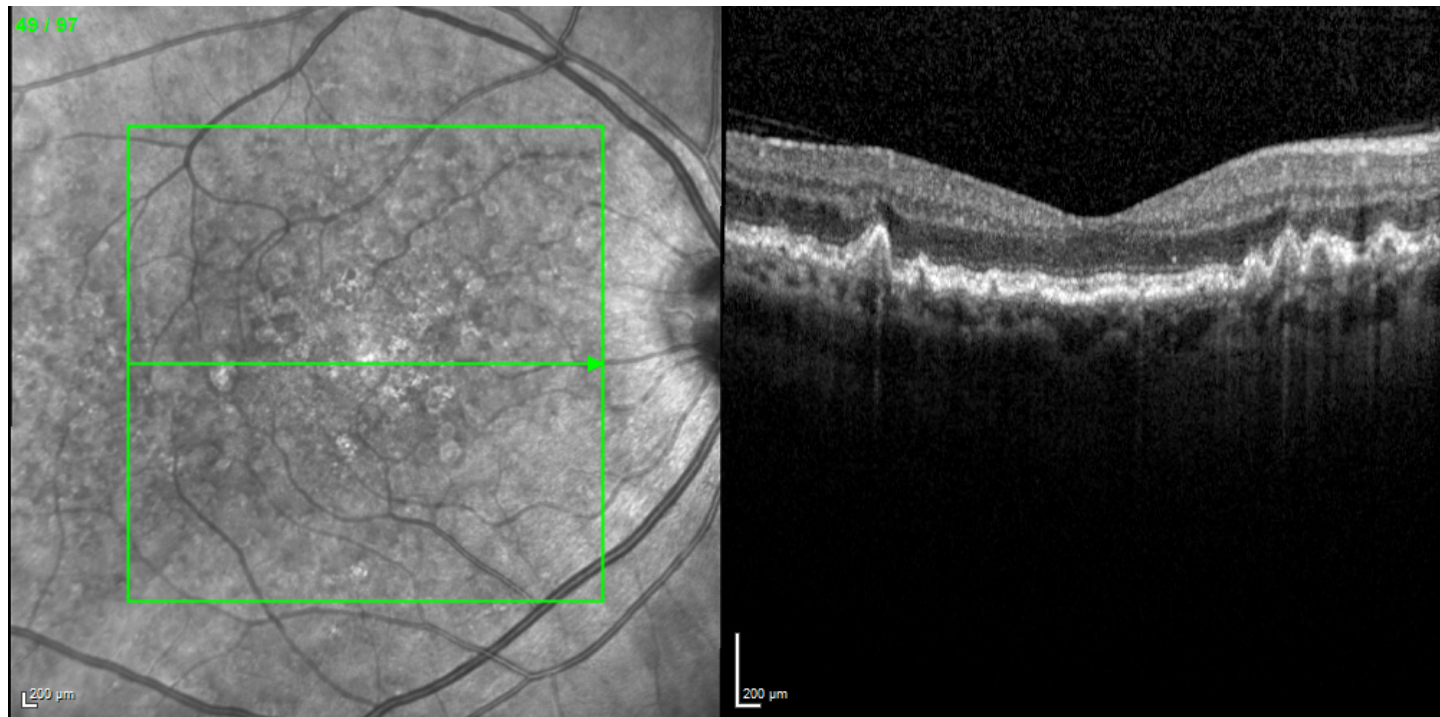


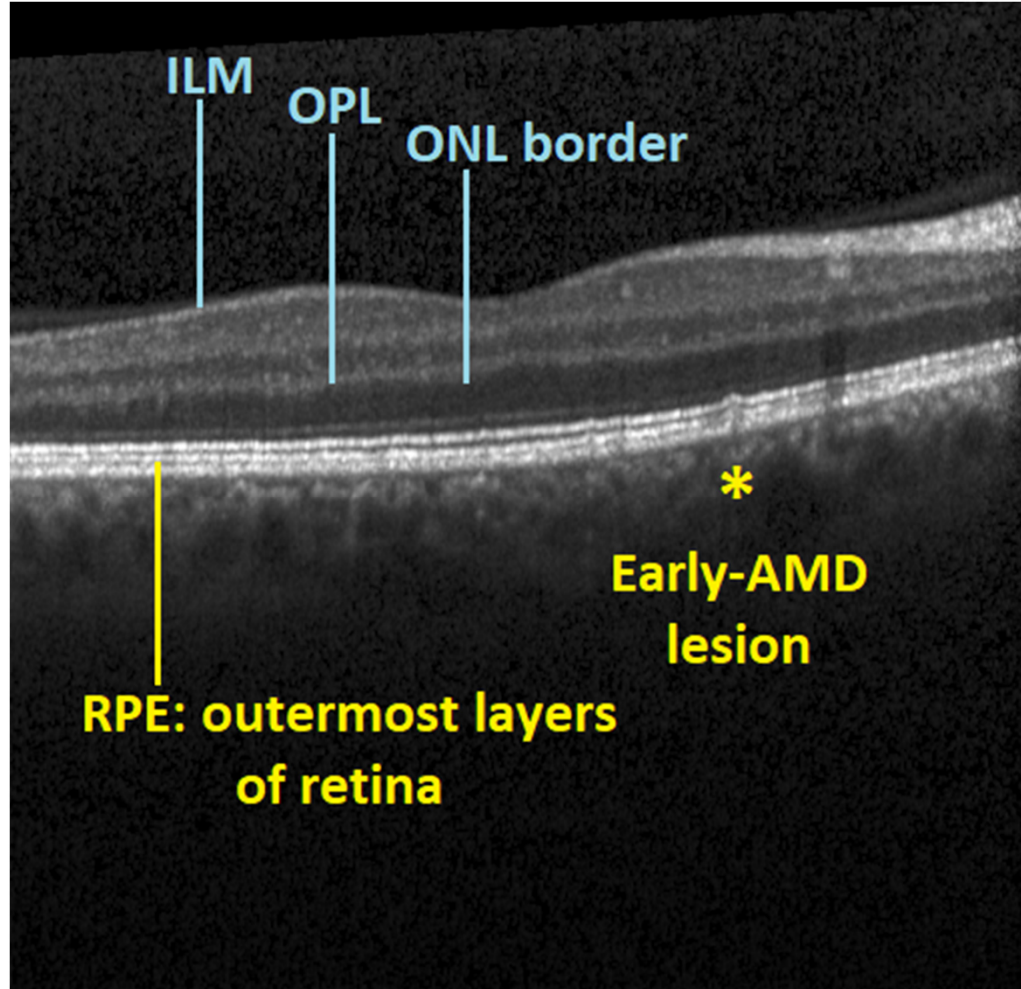
Thomas W. Winkler<sup>1†</sup> , Felix Grassmann<sup>2,3,4†</sup>, Caroline Brandl<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Christina Kiel<sup>2</sup>, Felix Günther<sup>1,6</sup>, Tobias Strunz<sup>2</sup>, Lorraine Weidner<sup>1</sup>, Martina E. Zimmermann<sup>1</sup>, Christina A. Korb<sup>7</sup>, Alicia Poplawski<sup>8</sup>, Alexander K. Schuster<sup>7</sup>, Martina Müller-Nurasyid<sup>8,9,10,11</sup>, Annette Peters<sup>12,13</sup>, Franziska G. Rauscher<sup>14,15</sup>, Tobias Elze<sup>14,16</sup>, Katrin Horn<sup>14,15</sup>, Markus Scholz<sup>14,15</sup>, Marisa Cañadas-Garre<sup>17</sup>, Amy Jayne McKnight<sup>17</sup>, Nicola Quinn<sup>17</sup>, Ruth E. Hogg<sup>17</sup>, Helmut Küchenhoff<sup>6</sup>, Iris M. Heid<sup>1†</sup>, Klaus J. Stark<sup>1†</sup> and Bernhard H. F. Weber<sup>2,18†</sup>

### Abstract

**Background:** Advanced age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of blindness. While around half of the genetic contribution to advanced AMD has been uncovered, little is known about the genetic architecture of early AMD.

# Früherkennung der altersabhängigen Makuladegeneration





# EarlyAMDRate

## **Entwicklung eines OCT-Gradingsystems**

### **Ziel**

- Standardisierte Bewertung früher AMD-Läsionen.

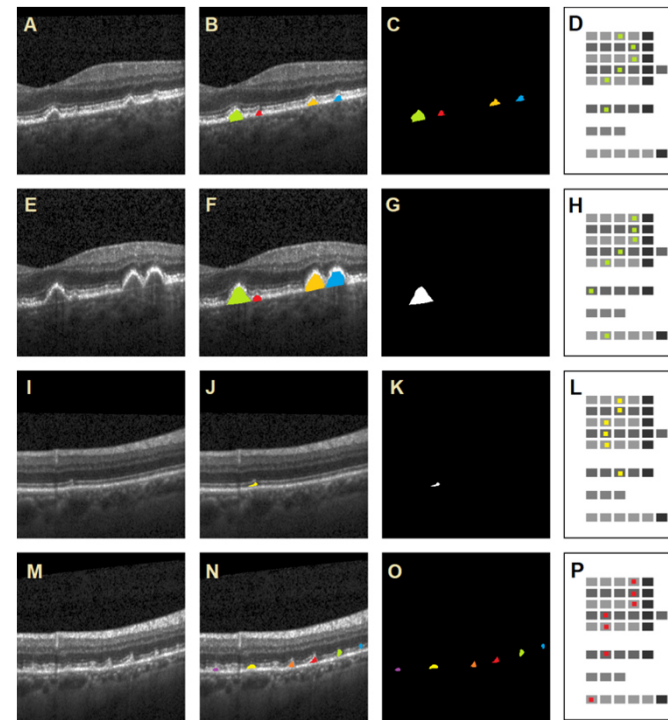
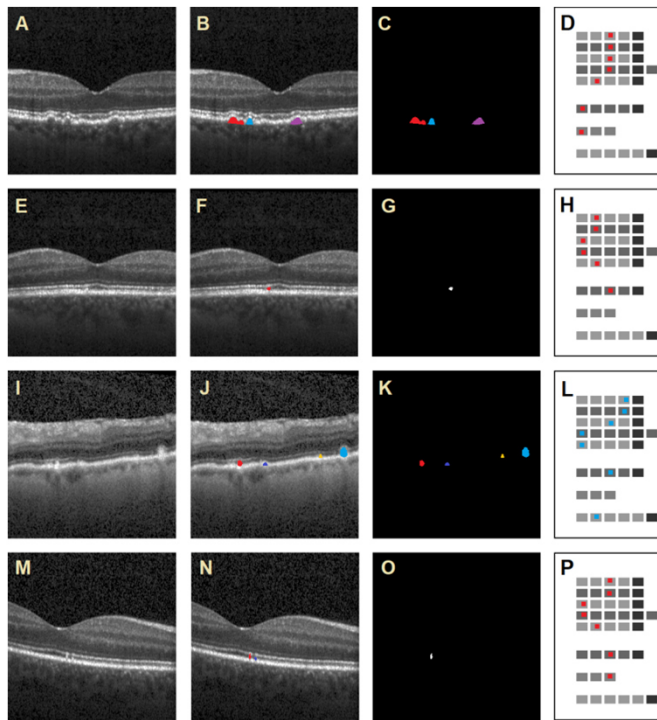
### **Methoden**

- OCT-basierte Läsionsanalyse
- standardisierte Klassifikation

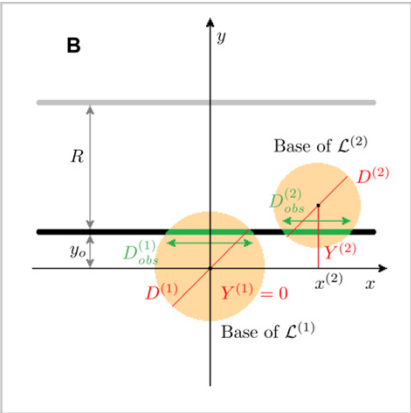
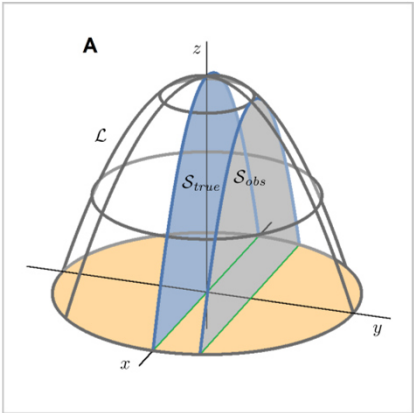
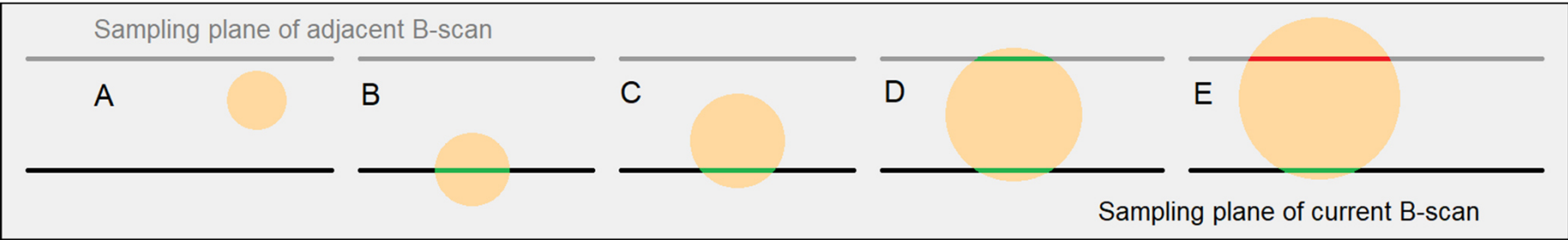
### **Bedeutung**

- Potenzielle Standardisierung der frühen AMD-Diagnostik.

# Manuelles Grading



# Wo schneidet der B-Scan die Druse

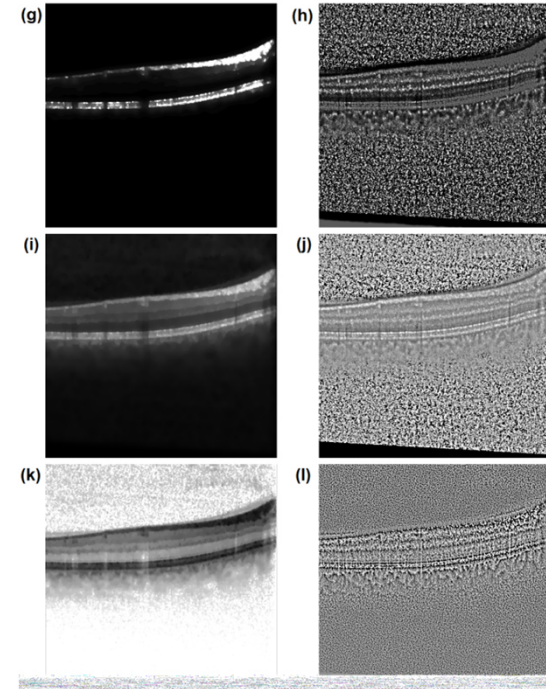
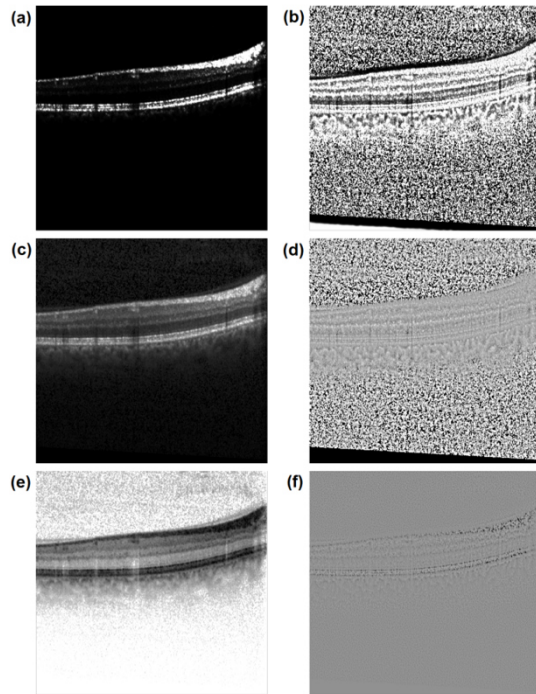


# Erweiterte OCT-Analytik

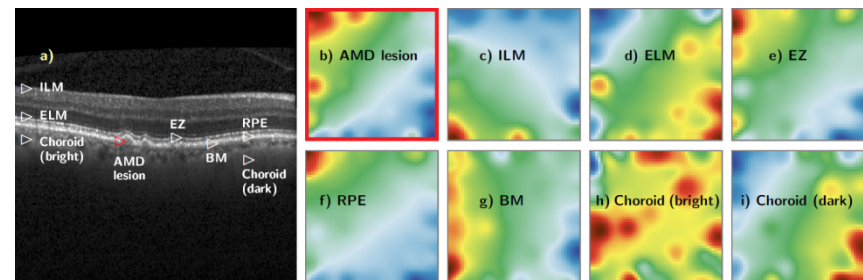
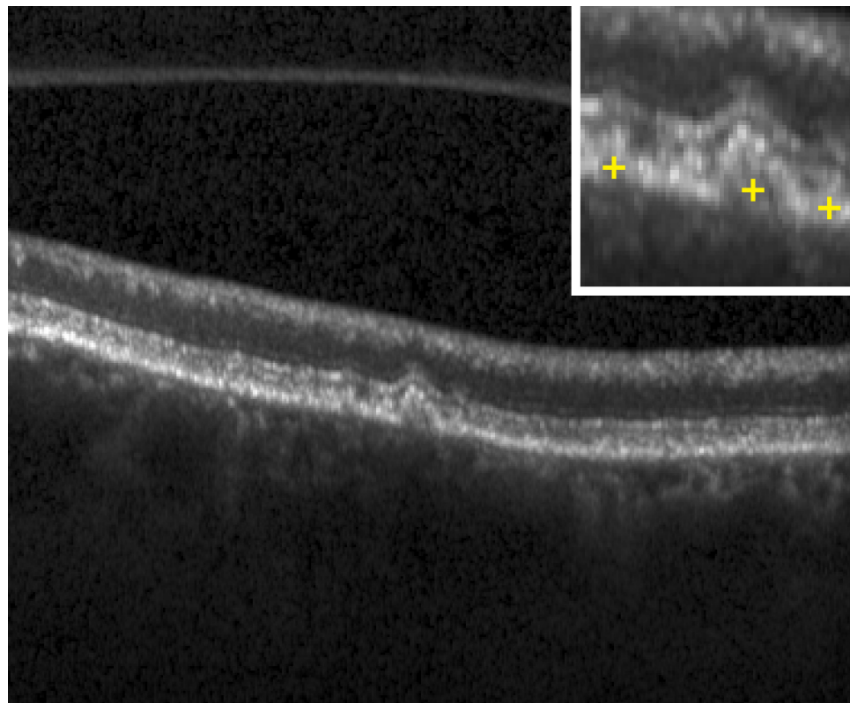
- Texturanalyse
- lokale Nachbarschaftsstatistik
- hochdimensionale Bildanalyse

PROBLEM → Klassische Dickenmessungen erfassen frühe Veränderungen nur begrenzt

# Information aus OCT Scans



# Läsionen automatisch finden



# Publikationen AMD



- Aktuelles Thema

# A Simulation Procedure for Stereological Correction of Early AMD Lesion Sizes Observed in Single OCT-B-Scans. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2026

tvst

Retina

## A Simulation Procedure for Stereological Correction of Early AMD Lesion Sizes Observed in Single OCT-B-Scans

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**Keywords:** age-related macular degeneration; observed lesion size; optical coherence tomography; simulation procedure; stereological correction

**Purpose:** Early lesions caused by age-related macular degeneration (AMD) are imaged by optical coherence tomography (OCT) in unprecedented detail. Most probably, however, the sampling plane of an OCT scan meets a given lesion noncentrally, and the observed sizes of its diameter, cross-sectional area, and volume must be stereologically corrected.

**Methods:** Stereological corrections are obtained by a simulation procedure, which is applied to the leading scans in a consecutive sample of 100 early AMD participants.

**Results:** Mean corrections for lesion diameter, cross-sectional area and volume amount to +9.1%, +32.0%, and +46.6%, respectively. After correction, AMD stage classifications with respect to the 125- $\mu$ m diameter cutpoint had to be changed for seven participants.

**Conclusions:** Simulation results confirm that for lesions pictured and measured in OCT scans — regardless of the accuracy of OCT imaging — stereological correction of observed sizes is compelling and unavoidable.

**Translational Relevance:** Categorical AMD classifications based on observed OCT data must be reexamined after stereological correction.

# A grading instrument for OCT-based assessment of early lesions caused by age-related macular degeneration. Acta Ophthalmol. 2025

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Acta Ophthalmologica

## ‘EarlyAMDRate’: A grading instrument for OCT-based assessment of early lesions caused by age-related macular degeneration

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### Abstract

**Background and Objectives:** Long before any signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) become clinically noticeable, the disease starts with accumulation of deposits of extracellular debris and formation of lesions within the outermost layers of the retina. For a reliable imaging of lesions in these early stages, optical coherence tomography (OCT) turned out to be largely preferable to colour fundus photography. However, an adequate grading instrument for Early-AMD lesions within OCT data is missing in the literature as yet. The present paper aims to fill this gap.

**Methods:** ‘EarlyAMDRate’, an instrument for OCT-based grading of Early-AMD lesions, is presented and documented. It comprises a questionnaire assessing a given lesion with respect to its relative position and interaction with the surrounding retinal layers, its brightness, special properties and state of progression (if applicable). Furthermore, the grading procedure includes a graphical masking of the lesion within the OCT image.

**Results:** For a consecutive sample of  $N=100$  Early-AMD patients, the ‘EarlyAMDRate’ grading instrument has been applied to leading OCT scans. Examples of masked lesions and processed grading questionnaires are pro-

# Extracting full information from OCT scans—signs of early age-related macular degeneration within inner retinal layers by local neighbourhood statistics.

## Part II: Results. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2025

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



### Extracting full information from OCT scans—signs of early age-related macular degeneration within inner retinal layers by local neighbourhood statistics. Part II: Results

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#### Abstract

**Background and Objectives:** Associations between the occurrence of early age related macular degeneration (AMD) and alterations in retinal layer thicknesses have been reported, based on classical processing of optical coherence tomography (OCT) data by noise removal and subsequent image segmentation. However, speckle noise within OCT data itself bears a substantial part of the total information. For this reason, we designed an omics-type approach for full exploitation of OCT data, which was able to identify signs of early AMD throughout the retina as a whole.

# Extracting full information from OCT scans—signs of early age-related macular degeneration within inner retinal layers by local neighbourhood statistics.

## Part I: Methodology. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2025

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### Extracting full information from OCT scans—signs of early age-related macular degeneration within inner retinal layers by local neighbourhood statistics. Part I: Methodology

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**Methods:** A nested case-control study was designed with 200 early AMD cases

Development and evaluation of customized software to automatically align macula and optic disc centered scanning laser ophthalmoscope fundus images. PeerJ Comput Sci. 2025



## **Development and evaluation of customized software to automatically align macula and optic disc centered scanning laser ophthalmoscope fundus images**

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# Slope Chain Code-based scale-independent tortuosity measurement on retinal vessels. Exp Eye Res. 2025

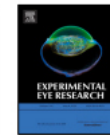
Experimental Eye Research 254 (2025) 110286



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Experimental Eye Research

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Research article

## Slope Chain Code-based scale-independent tortuosity measurement on retinal vessels



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### ARTICLE INFO

Dataset link: [https://www.health-atlas.de/data\\_files/606?version=1](https://www.health-atlas.de/data_files/606?version=1)

**Keywords:**  
Extended Slope Chain Code  
Tortuosity measurement

### ABSTRACT

Retinal vascular tortuosity presents valuable potential as a clinical biomarker for many relevant vascular and systemic diseases. Our work exhibits twofold: first, the definition of a novel scale-invariant metric to measure retinal blood vessel tortuosity; and second, the generation of a local database, called SCALE-TORT, with the intention of providing a means to test the scale invariance property on real retinal vessels rather than on synthetic data. The proposed scale invariant tortuosity metric is based on the Extended Slope Chain Code

Vielen Dank!  
Zeit für Fragen

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