

RECENT ADVANCES IN GLAUCOMA IMAGING

Essay

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Matter

Acknowledgments	iv
List of abbreviations	v
List of figures	vii
List of tables	x

Introduction 1

Chapter 1: Imaging devices

1.1 Optical coherence tomography	5
1.2 Confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy	9
1.3 Scanning laser polarimetry	12
1.4 Ultrasound biomicroscopy	16
1.5 Anterior segment optical coherence tomography	20

Chapter 2: Retinal nerve fiber layer imaging

2.1 Optical coherence tomography	24
2.2 Scanning laser polarimetry	29

2.3 Comparison between optical coherence and scanning laser polarimetry for detection of localized retinal nerve fiber layer defect	35
2.4 In correlation with visual field	39

Chapter 3: Optic nerve imaging

3.1 Zone Parapapillary Atrophy and visual field progression	49
3.2 optical coherence tomography	51
3.3 Confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy	54
3.4 comparisons between optical coherence tomography and Confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy	59
3.5 Enhanced Depth Imaging Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography of the Optic Nerve Head	64

Chapter 4: Macular imaging

4.1 Optical coherence tomography	75
4.2 Speckle noise–reduced spectral domain optical coherence tomography	83

Chapter 5: Anterior segment imaging

5.1 Anterior segment optical coherences tomography	88
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5.2 Ultrasound biomicroscopy	97
5.3 Comparative AS-OCT and UBM images of the anterior segment	107
Summary	110
References	113

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACA	Anterior chamber angle
AOD	Angle opening distance
ARA	Angle recess area
AROC	Area Receiver-operating characteristic
ARPs	Atypical retardation patterns
AS-OCT	Anterior segment optical coherence tomography
AUC	Area under the curve
CA	Cup area
CDR	cup-to-disc ratio
CDR	Vertical cup/disc ratio
CP RNFL	circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer
CSLO	Confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy
CV	Cup volume
DIGS	Diagnostic Innovations in Glaucoma Study
ECC	Enhanced corneal compensation
EDI	Enhanced Depth Imaging
GCC	Ganglion cell complex
GCL	ganglion cell layer
GPA	guided progression analysis
GPS	Glaucoma Probability Score
HRT	Heidelberg Retina Tomography
IPL	Inner plexiform layer
IRC	Inner retinal complex
LPI	Laser peripheral iridectomy
mNFL	Macular nerve fiber layer
MR	Macular retinal
MRA	Moorfields Regression Analysis
NFI	Nerve fiber layer
NRA	Neuroretinal rim area
NTG	Normal tension glaucoma

OCT	Optical coherence tomography
ONH	Optic nerve head
ONHP	Optic nerve head photography
PACG	primary angle-closure glaucoma
POAG	primary open-angle glaucoma
PSD	pattern standard deviation
RADAAR	Rim area to disc area asymmetry ratio
RGC	retinal ganglion cell
ROC	Receiver-operating characteristic
SD-OCT	Spectral-domain optical coherence tomography
SL-OCT	Slit-lamp optical coherence tomography
SLP	Scanning laser polarimetry
TSNIT	Temporal-superior-nasal-inferior-temporal
UBM	Ultrasound biomicroscopy
VCC	Variable corneal compensation

LIST OF FIGURES

Chapter 1: Imaging devices

- 1 Diagram demonstrated optic and imaging techniques of the OCT.
- 2 Schematic diagram of a confocal scanning laser system used in HRT.
- 3 Retardation of polarized light after passing through a birefringent medium
- 4 Diagram illustrating several biometric descriptors of the angle

Chapter 2: Retinal nerve fiber imaging

- 5 Retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL) thickness map
- 6 3-D SD-OCT data visualization
- 7 Visualization and detection by means of the retinal nerve fiber layer thickness deviation map.
- 8 Atypical birefringence pattern
- 9 GDx-VCC demonstrates marked reduction of retardation and RNFL loss consistent with the appearance of the optic nerve head
- 10 Right eye with hemifield visual loss and marked diffuse RNFL loss on both GDx-VCC and OCT in both hemifields
- 11 OCT and SLP images of the peripapillary RNFL
- 12 A left eye with juvenile open-angle glaucoma and an RNFL defect with a corresponding superonasal field defect

- 13 GDx VCC scans of a glaucomatous eye that progressed by visual fields optic disc stereophotographs
- 14 Radar plot illustrating the rates of change in SLP with ECC retinal nerve fibre layer measurements according to the sectors around the optic disc
- 15 Scatterplot illustrating the relationship between rates of change in the SLP with ECC parameter
- 16 OCT and SAP imaging of glaucoma
- 17 Example of glaucomatous visual field and OCT RNFL defect

Chapter 3: Optic nerve imaging

- 18 Different OCT scanning modalities
- 19 The HRT image shows a neuroretinal rim defect
- 20 HRT standard printout
- 21 An eye was imaged with HRT 3, Stratus OCT
- 22 Cirrus OCT, HRT II and a disc photograph of optic nerve
- 23 The laminar thicknesses of 3 different locations at the ONH
- 24 SD OCT images of the lamina cribrosa
- 25 The optic disc, visual field examination, and SD OCT B-scans

Chapter 4: Macular imaging

- 26 mNFL+IRC thickness
- 27 OCT and fundus photography

- 28 Image processing steps in the automated measurement of GCC and retinal thickness
- 29 Speckle noise—reduced SD OCT B-scans through the central fovea in a normal eye
- 30 Macular ganglion cell layer (GCL) thinning visible on speckle noise—reduced SD OCT

Chapter 5: Anterior segment imaging

- 31 AS-OCT and UBM images in an eye with plateau iris syndrome
- 32 Unenhanced (A) and enhanced (B) scan acquisition protocols with angle measurements
- 33 AS OCT images of the nasal and temporal angles
- 34 ASOCT: narrow anterior chamber angle
- 35 UBM images of malignant glaucoma
- 36 UBM images of pigmentary glaucoma
- 37 UBM image of temporal quadrant in patient with plateau iris
- 38 Series of UBM scans covering each quadrant in patient with plateau iris
- 39 Comparative Artemis – UBM and (B) Visante – OCT images of the right eye

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter 3: Optic nerve imaging

Table 1	HRT Stereometric parameters of the optic disc	58
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Chapter 5: Anterior segment imaging

Table 2	compares UBM and AS-OCT in terms of resolution and usage	108
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INTRODUCTION

Glaucoma is a multifactorial, progressive, neurodegenerative disorder. It is characterized by the death of retina ganglion cells with damage in the retinal nerve fiber (RNFL) and characteristic optic nerve atrophy if left untreated. (1).

Recent technological advances that have emerged enable more precise identification and quantification of glaucomatous damage and facilitate early glaucoma diagnosis and monitoring of progression. Hence early diagnosis is crucial and is possible due to advances in both functional and structural investigative techniques. (2).

Functional investigative techniques such as short-wavelength automated perimetry (SWAP) (Humphrey Systems, Dublin, California) has shown potential for earlier detection of glaucomatous visual field defects and more sensitive assessment of visual field progression. The test uses a bright yellow background with blue stimuli. SWAP requires detection by the

short-wavelength cones and processing through the small bistratified ganglion cell (blue-yellow). Frequency doubling technology (FDT) perimetry (Welch Allyn, Skaneateles, New York, and Humphrey Systems, Dublin, California). FDT isolates a subgroup of retinal ganglion cell mechanisms in the magnocellular (M-cell) pathway, Which has function that are recognized to be abnormal in glaucoma.(3).

Structural investigative technique include optical coherence tomography (OCT), confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy (CSLO) scanning laser polarimetry (SLP) provide objective and quantitative measurements that are highly reproducible and show good agreement with clinical estimates of optic nerve head structure and visual function. (2).

OCT is of particular utility in glaucoma, since it provides high-resolution objective, quantitative assessment of the retinal cellular layers affected by the disease. The recent availability Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography SDOCT has permitted visualization of multiple intra retinal layers. Investigating the involvement of photoreceptor is pertinent to understanding the extent of retinal damage in glaucoma patients and developing new psychophysical tests for glaucoma detection. SDOCT measures RNFL thickness with a low-coherence light source projected onto the retina. The time delay of the light backscatter from the RNFL compared with light reflected by a reference mirror is then calculated. Circumpapillary RNFL was measured in the fast RNFL mode using three 360-degree circular,

high-resolution scans with a diameter of 3.4 mm that were centered on the optic disc. RNFL thicknesses of the collective quadrants (360° measure), as well as the individual temporal (316°-45°), superior (46°-135°), nasal (136°-225°), and inferior (226°-315°) quadrants, were obtained for analysis (4).

CSLO is a non-invasive investigation that has been used initially to receive three-dimensional images of the retinal surface in vivo. The commercial name of the device is Heidelberg Retina Tomograph (HRT). Two variants are used in current practice: HRT II and HRT III and used for the analysis of the optic disc and peripapillary retinal nerve fibers layer. HRT is designed to scan the retinal surface with a diode laser, which has a wavelength of 670 nm. The precision of the method is based on the principle of confocality, thus only the laser light reflected from the focal plane, which focuses at the level of the diaphragm, is allowed to pass and it is registered by the detector. (5)

SLP takes advantage of the birefringence property of the RNFL that modifies the polarization of the light (retardation) when illuminated. The retardation is proportional to the thickness of the birefringent tissue, thus allowing the instrument to obtain objective and quantitative measurements of the RNFL thickness. The reliability of the measurements is dependent, at least in part, on the machine's ability to extract the RNFL retardance from the total ocular retardance, since the cornea and the lens also exhibit some degree of birefringence. The commercially available SLP instruments are the GDx VCC (variable cornea compensation) and the latest GDx ECC (enhanced corneal compensation), which

overcome the corneal birefringence. (6).

Ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM) and anterior segment optical coherence tomography (AS OCT) is used for assessment of the anterior segment in glaucoma. UBM systems use frequencies ranging from approximately 35 to 80 MHz, as compared with typical 10-MHz systems used for general-purpose ophthalmic imaging. AS OCT is a light-based imaging modality that provides high-resolution images of the anterior segment in cross section. It allows for an objective assessment of the anterior chamber (AC) angle by a completely noncontact approach. AS-OCT has undergone several advances, including the use of 1.3- μ m-wavelength light and the development of high-speed imaging at this wavelength. These modifications have improved the visualization of AC angle structures and enabled real-time imaging of changes in the angle configuration. Both technologies allow visualization of the iridocorneal angle and thus, can contribute to the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. (7).

Aim of work

This work aims at reviewing the current status of advanced imaging techniques in management of glaucoma.