



*Ain Shams University  
Faculty of Medicine  
Ophthalmology Department*

## ***Tomographic Assessment of Some Neural Elements Affection in Type I Diabetic Patients***

*Thesis Submitted In partial fulfillment of MSc degree in  
Ophthalmology*

***By***

**Mohamed Elsayed Elarabi Gharieb**  
*MB.B.CH Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University*

***Supervised by***

**Prof.Dr. Ossama Abd El-Monem Raslan**

*Professor of Ophthalmology  
Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University*

**Dr. Wael Adel Gomaa**

*Lecturer of Ophthalmology  
Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University*

*Faculty of Medicine  
Ain Shams University  
Cairo  
2018*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا

إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

صدق الله العظيم

(سورة البقرة - الآية ٣٢)





## Acknowledgement

First of all, I would like to thank Allah for helping and guiding me throughout my study and whole my life.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my supervisors. First to start with ***Prof.Dr. Ossama Abd El-Monem Raslan***, Professor of Ophthalmology, Ain-Shams University, who has been of utmost supreme guidance and supervision with overwhelming kind care and encouragement.

I would like to express my greatest gratitude to ***Dr. Wael Adel Gomaa***, Lecturer of Ophthalmology, Ain Shams University, who has performed his greatest effort and helped me from the beginning and throughout the practical part of the study.

Out of my supervisors, I am really indebted to ***Dr. Hesham Mohamed Gharieb***, Lecturer of Ophthalmology, Ain-Shams University, who had much helped me during my study in imaging OCT many deepest thanks for his extreme support.

I would like to thank all patients who accepted to be a part of this study for their helpful contribution.

At last but not at least, I would like to record my continuing debt and warmest gratitude from all of my heart to all my family members and my friends and thank them all for supporting me through the study period.



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# CONTENTS

	Page
♣ List of Tables	I
♣ List of Figures	II
♣ List of Abbreviations	IV
⊖ INTRODUCTION	1
⊖ AIM OF THE WORK	4
⊖ REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
⊘ Anatomy of the Retina	5
⊘ Diabetic Retinopathy	13
⊘ Glycosylated Hemoglobin	31
⊘ Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)	33
⊖ Subjects &METHODS	45
⊖ RESULTS	51
⊖ DISCUSSION	75
⊖ CONCLUSION	81
⊖ RECOMMENDATIONS	82
⊖ SUMMARY	83
⊖ REFERENCES	87
⊖ ARABIC SUMMARY	

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## *List of Tables*

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Table (2-1)</b>	International Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale	<b>26</b>
<b>Table (2-2)</b>	Diabetic Macular Edema Disease Severity Scale	<b>27</b>
<b>Table (4-1)</b>	Characteristics of Retinal Thickness Mapping Protocols	<b>40</b>
<b>Table (6-1)</b>	Demographic data of cases group and control group	<b>52</b>
<b>Table (6-2)</b>	Clinical data and laboratory findings of cases group and control group	<b>53</b>
<b>Table (6-3)</b>	Comparison between diabetic cases group and normal control group as regard age	<b>54</b>
<b>Table (6-4)</b>	Comparison between diabetic cases group and normal control group as regard sex, marital status and smoking	<b>56</b>
<b>Table (6-5)</b>	Comparison between cases group and control group as regard pulse, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure and intraocular pressure (IOP).	<b>58</b>
<b>Table (6-6)</b>	Comparison between studied groups as regard retinal thickness ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) by using Split-plot (mixed design) ANOVA.	<b>60</b>
<b>Table (6-7)</b>	Tests of effects (Within-Subjects and between-Subjects) on retinal thickness ( $\mu\text{m}$ ).	<b>61</b>
<b>Table (6-8)</b>	Comparison between studied groups as regard ETDRS zones of inner circle of nerve fiber layer (NFL) and ganglion cell layer (GCL) thickness of right eye	<b>65</b>
<b>Table (6-9)</b>	Comparison between studied groups as regard ETDRS zones of inner circle of nerve fiber layer (NFL) and ganglion cell layer (GCL) thickness of left eye	<b>68</b>
<b>Table (6-10)</b>	Comparison between studied groups as regard ETDRS zones of outer circle of nerve fiber layer (NFL) and ganglion cell layer (GCL) thickness of right eye	<b>71</b>
<b>Table (6-11)</b>	Comparison between studied groups as regard ETDRS zones of outer circle of nerve fiber layer (NFL) and ganglion cell layer (GCL) thickness of left eye	<b>74</b>

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## *List of Figures*

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Figure (1-1)</b>	Layers of the retina	<b>6</b>
<b>Figure (4-1)</b>	Normal OCT with illustration of retinal layers	<b>37</b>
<b>Figure (4-2)</b>	Cystoid macular edema	<b>42</b>
<b>Figure (4-3)</b>	Diffuse retinal thickening (DRT) in diabetic patients	<b>43</b>
<b>Figure (4-4)</b>	Posterior hyaloidal traction	
<b>Figure (4-5)</b>	Vitreomacular traction with impending macular hole and cyst formation	<b>44</b>
<b>Figure (5-1)</b>	Standard ETDRS subfields	<b>48</b>
<b>Figure (6-1)</b>	Profile Plots shows comparison between studied groups as regard estimated marginal means of retinal thickness in different zones; marker represent estimated marginal mean, Y-error bar represent 95% confidence interval of estimated marginal mean	<b>62</b>

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## *List of Abbreviations*

<b>ADA</b>	American Diabetes Association
<b>AGEs</b>	Advanced glycation end-products
<b>ANOVA</b>	Analysis of variance
<b>BBB</b>	Blood brain barrier
<b>BCVA</b>	Best corrected visual acuity
<b>BRB</b>	Blood retinal barrier
<b>BUN</b>	Blood urea nitrogen
<b>CST</b>	Center subfield thickness
<b>D</b>	Diopter
<b>d.f.</b>	Degree of freedom
<b>DAG</b>	Diacylglycerol
<b>DBP</b>	Diastolic blood pressure
<b>DCCT</b>	Diabetes Control and Complication Trial
<b>DM</b>	Diabetes Mellitus
<b>DME</b>	Diabetic macular edema
<b>DR</b>	Diabetic retinopathy
<b>DRT</b>	Diffuse retinal thickening
<b>ECM</b>	Extracellular matrix
<b>ELM</b>	External limiting membrane
<b>ERM</b>	Epiretinal membrane
<b>ETDRS</b>	Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study
<b>F</b>	Fisher's Ratio
<b>FA</b>	Fluorescein angiography
<b>FFA</b>	Fundus Fluorescein Angiography
<b>GCL</b>	Ganglion cell layer
<b>HbA1c</b>	Glycosylated haemoglobin
<b>HS</b>	Highly significant
<b>i-BRB</b>	Inner blood retinal barrier
<b>ICAM-1</b>	Intercellular adhesion molecule-1
<b>ILM</b>	Internal limiting membrane
<b>InfInLt</b>	Inferior Inner Left
<b>InfInRt</b>	Inferior Inner Right
<b>InfOutLt</b>	Inferior Outer Left
<b>InfOutRt</b>	Inferior Outer Right
<b>INL</b>	Inner nuclear layer

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<b>IOP</b>	Intraocular pressure
<b>IOP</b>	Intra ocular pressure
<b>IPL</b>	Inner plexiform layer
<b>IRMA</b>	Intraretinal microvascular abnormalities
<b>IS/OS</b>	Junction between the inner and outer photoreceptor segments
<b>IS/OS PRL</b>	Inner and outer segments of the photoreceptor layer
<b>LGN</b>	Lateral geniculate nucleus
<b>Lt</b>	Left
<b>mm</b>	Millimeter
<b>mmHg</b>	Millimeters of mercury
<b>MS</b>	Mean Square
<b>N</b>	Total number of subjects
<b>NasInLt</b>	Nasal Inner Left
<b>NasInRt</b>	Nasal Inner Right
<b>NasOutLt</b>	Nasal Outer left
<b>NasOutRt</b>	Nasal Outer Right
<b>NFL</b>	Nerve fiber layer
<b>NO</b>	Nitric oxide
<b>No.</b>	Number
<b>NPDR</b>	Non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy
<b>NS</b>	Non- Significant
<b>OCT</b>	Optical coherence tomography
<b>ONL</b>	Outer nuclear layer
<b>OPL</b>	Outer plexiform layer
<b>OS-RPE</b>	Outer segment of retinal pigmented epithelium junction
<b>PDR</b>	Proliferative diabetic retinopathy
<b>PGF</b>	Placental growth factor
<b>PKC</b>	Protein kinase C
<b>PVD</b>	Posterior vitreous detachment
<b>RAGE</b>	Receptors of advanced glycation end-products
<b>RBCs</b>	Red blood cells
<b>RGCs</b>	Retinal ganglion cells
<b>ROS</b>	Reactive oxidative species
<b>RPE</b>	Retinal Pigmented Epithelium
<b>RT</b>	Retinal thickness
<b>Rt</b>	Right

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<b>S</b>	Significant
<b>SBP</b>	Systolic blood pressure
<b>SD</b>	Standard deviation
<b>SD-OCT</b>	Spectral-domain optical coherence tomography
<b>SE</b>	Standard Error
<b>SPANOVA</b>	Split plot analysis of variance
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
<b>SS</b>	Type III Sum of Squares
<b>STDR</b>	Sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy
<b>SupInLt</b>	Superior Inner Left
<b>SupInRt</b>	Superior Inner Right
<b>SupOutLt</b>	Superior Outer left
<b>SupOutRt</b>	Superior Outer Right
<b>TempInLt</b>	Temporal Inner Left
<b>TempInRt</b>	Temporal Inner Right
<b>TempOutLt</b>	Temporal Outer Left
<b>TempOutR</b>	Temporal Outer Right
<b>TGFB1</b>	Transforming growth factor-beta 1
<b>UCVA</b>	Uncorrected visual acuity
<b>UHR OCT</b>	Ultrahigh-resolution optical coherence tomography
<b>UKPDS</b>	United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study
<b>VACM-1</b>	Vascular cell adhesion molecule-1
<b>VB</b>	Venous beading
<b>VEGF</b>	Vascular endothelial growth factor
<b>VEGFRs</b>	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptors
<b>VVO</b>	Vasculo-vacuolar organelles
<b>WESDR</b>	Wisconsin Epidemiologic Study of Diabetic Retinopathy
<b>%</b>	Percent
<b>µm</b>	Micrometer
<b>3D</b>	3 dimensional
<b>95%CI</b>	95% Confidence Interval

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## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus is a worldwide pandemic disease. As of 2010, more than 200 million people had been diagnosed with diabetes, and this number is predicted to increase by 62% by 2025. This increase is due to an increase in obesity together with the increased life expectancy of the world population. DM complications include macroangiopathy (myocardial infarction or vasculocerebral stroke) and microangiopathy (diabetic nephropathy, neuropathy, and retinopathy) (*Romero-Aroca et al., 2016*).

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is the most common cause of blindness, affecting 1.9% of patients with DM. Furthermore, 2.64% of diabetic patients have visual sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy (STDR). The major cause of visual impairment in DM patients is diabetic macular edema (DME), with an annual incidence of 2.19%. DME is a consequence of DR in the macular area and is secondary to retinal barrier rupture, which is in turn secondary to a range of metabolic changes brought about by hyperglycemia (*Romero-Aroca et al., 2016*).

Although the long-term effects of D.M on vascular tissues are very well known, its effect on retinal neurons isn't very clear (*Königsreuther and Jonas, 1995*).

Normal vision depends on the normal function of retinal neurons so vision loss in diabetes must be explained in terms of altered neuronal function & functional changes in the vasculature (*Lieth et al., 2000*).

Diabetic Retinopathy affects up to 80 % of all patients who have had diabetes for 10 years or more (*Williams et al., 2004*).

The longer a person has diabetes, the higher chances of developing diabetic retinopathy (*Chaill et al., 1997*).

It is known that diabetes damage glial cell & neuronal metabolism which directly impact neurotransmission & may lead to increase apoptosis of retinal neurons, glial cell reactivity, microglial activation & altered glutamate metabolism resulting in dysfunction & even degeneration of neuronal cells which in turn cause breakdown of blood-retinal barrier & lead to visual field defects (*Lieth et al., 2000*).

Thinning of the total retina in type 1 diabetic patients with minimal retinopathy compared with healthy controls is attributed to a selective thinning of inner retinal layers and supports the concept that early DR includes a neurodegenerative component (*van Dijk et al., 2009*).

In 2002 Varkonyi, Peto & Degi reported the effect of metabolic control of diabetes on nerve fiber layer (NFL) they have demonstrated that NFL thickness tended to decrease with impairment of metabolic control in diabetic cases with & without ophthalmoscopically detectable retinopathy (*Varkonyi et al., 2002*).

Ganglion cell layer (GCL) thinning in the pericentral area and corresponding loss of NFL thickness in the peripheral macula in patients with type 1 diabetes with no or minimal DR compared with control subjects. These results support the concept that diabetes mellitus (DM) has an early neurodegenerative effect on the retina, which occurs even though the vascular component of DR is minimal (*van Dijk et al., 2010*).

If NFL thinning is significant in diabetic patients with preclinical diabetic retinopathy, evaluation of peripapillary NFL thickness would be very important (*Chen et al., 2015*), because early detection and treatment

of diabetic retinopathy is critical to reduce the risk of blindness (*ETDRS research group, 1985*).

With the help of optical coherence tomography (OCT) , it is now possible to measure NFL thickness with a low- coherence light source projected onto the retina to determine retinal thickness which not only measures ganglion cell layer (GCL) axons but also muller cell processes & astrocytes to measure the effect of DM on NFL and GCL thickness (*Jaffe and Capriol,2004*).

Periodic glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c) measurements can reflect the long-term control of hyperglycaemia. Intensive glycemic control had been proved to be effective in decreasing incidence rate of development and progression of diabetic retinopathy in type 1 and type 2 diabetic mellitus as demonstrates by diabetes control and complication trials (*Moon et al., 2011*).

