Effects of Retinal Morphology on Contrast Sensitivity and Reading Ability in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

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Purpose. To investigate the effect of changes in retinal morphology on contrast sensitivity and reading ability in patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in the Avastin (bevacizumab; Genentech, South San Francisco, CA) for choroidal neovascularization (ABC) Trial.

Methods. Contrast sensitivity obtained with Pelli-Robson charts, reading ability assessed with Minnesota Reading charts, and Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) visual acuity (VA) obtained by protocol refraction, were recorded. Raw Stratus optical coherence tomography (OCT; Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc., Dublin, CA) images were analyzed with the publicly available software OCTOR, which allows precise delineation of any retinal compartment of interest. Thickness and volume were calculated for neurosensory retina, subretinal fluid (SRF), subretinal tissue, and pigment epithelium detachment, and the resulting measurements were correlated with each visual function parameter.

Results. One hundred twenty-two patients with newly diagnosed neovascular AMD and enrolled in the ABC Trial, were evaluated. Increased subretinal tissue volume correlated with decreased contrast sensitivity (Pearson's correlation coefficient, $r = -0.4944$, $P = 0.001$). A modest correlation was detected between SRF volume and contrast sensitivity ($r = -0.2562$, $P = 0.004$). Increased retinal thickness at the foveal center also correlated with decreased visual function (ETDRS VA: $r = -0.4530$, $P < 0.001$).

Conclusions. The strongest correlation detected between the functional parameters assessed and any of the OCT-derived morphologic parameters was that between decreased contrast sensitivity and increased subretinal tissue. In the future, assessment of contrast sensitivity and reading ability, in combination with quantitative subanalysis of retinal compartments, may lead to the identification of parameters relevant to functional improvement and ultimate prognosis in patients with newly diagnosed neovascular AMD (www.controlled-trials.com number, ISRCTN83325075). (*Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2010;51: 5431–5437) DOI:10.1167/iovs.09-4846

In recent years, the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) has been revolutionized by the introduction of antiangiogenic therapies such as ranibizumab (Lucentis), and bevacizumab (Avastin; both from Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, CA).[1–3] Optical coherence tomography (OCT), an imaging modality that provides cross-sectional images of the neurosensory retina, plays a critical role in this treatment by allowing noninvasive monitoring of disease activity.[4,5] Although it is presumed that anatomic improvements demonstrated by OCT will ultimately result in clinical benefits, many studies have failed to show a consistent correlation between reduction in OCT-derived retinal thickness and improvement in visual function.[3,6] Such failures may be due, at least in part, to the limitations of the automated image-analysis software provided by current OCT systems.[7,8] In addition, however, the structurally heterogeneous nature of the disorder and the reliance on high-contrast distance visual acuity as the primary measure of visual function in these studies may play a role.[9,10]

CNV, the hallmark of neovascular AMD, results in a wide range of alterations in retinal morphology, with intraretinal, subretinal, and RPE components.[11,12] CNV lesions also vary widely, both in size, and in location relative to the fovea. Although high-contrast distance visual acuity is largely a function of foveal integrity, other visual parameters, such as reading ability and contrast sensitivity, may be more reflective of alterations in macular structure as a whole.[10,13–15] Thus, evaluation of contrast sensitivity and reading ability may allow detection of stronger and more consistent correlations with OCT-derived retinal parameters. The detection of any such robust relationship is of interest for clinical trials, where the use of validated morphologic parameters as surrogate endpoints could lead to increased accuracy, reduced costs, and shortened duration.[16–18] Furthermore, in clinical practice, measurement of reading ability and contrast sensitivity may also allow the clinician to better assess individual visual performance. Contrast sensitivity, for example, is closely linked with both orientation and mobility and, in patients with macular disease, may be markedly reduced despite near-normal distance visual acuity.[19]

To address these questions and others, we have developed a software tool (OCTOR) that allows the user to manually quantify any retinal structure of interest.[20] Using this tool, we have identified novel OCT parameters that show modest correlations with Snellen visual acuity in neovascular AMD.[6,9] In the current report, we evaluate the effect of changes in retinal morphology on reading ability and contrast sensitivity, using OCTOR, in a recently completed phase III/IV clinical trial: the

Avastin (bevacizumab) for choroidal neovascularization (ABC) Trial.[21]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data Collection

The ABC trial is a double-masked randomized controlled trial that commenced in August 2006, in which intravitreal bevacizumab injections were compared to standard therapy in the treatment of neovascular AMD.[21] The patients enrolled in the ABC Trial were randomized to intravitreal bevacizumab or to the standard therapy available at the time of trial initiation (photodynamic therapy with verteporfin, intravitreal pegaptanib, or sham treatment). For inclusion in the study, the patients were required to have previously untreated subfoveal CNV secondary to AMD, with no evidence of significant ocular comorbidity. Full details of the clinical trial design, as well as the inclusion and exclusion criteria, have been reported.[21] The ABC Trial was conducted according to the ICHGCP (International Conference on Harmonization for Good Clinical Practice in clinical research), as set out in the European Union Clinical Trials Directive (2001) and associated U.K. Regulations (2004), which adhere to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

StratusOCT (Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc., Dublin, CA) images, using the Radial Lines protocol of six high-resolution B-scans (512 A-scans per 6-mm B-scan) or the Fast Macular Thickness protocol of six lower-resolution B-scans (128 A-scans per 6-mm B-scan), were collected at baseline for each patient enrolled in the study. Data for each case were exported to disk by using the export feature available in the Stratus-OCT analysis software (ver. 4.0).

Each patient's best-refracted visual acuity was recorded at the time of enrollment by using Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy (ETDRS) visual acuity charts at a starting distance of 4 m. Contrast sensitivity was measured with Pelli-Robson charts, whereas reading ability was measured with Minnesota Reading (MNREAD) charts according to standard protocols.[22] Color photos and fluorescein angiographic images were also obtained for each patient at enrollment.

Computer-Assisted Grading Software

The software used for OCT analysis (OCTOR) was written by Doheny Image Reading Center software engineers to facilitate viewing and manual grading. This software, which effectively operates as a painting program and calculator, imports data exported from the StratusOCT machine and allows the grader to use a computer mouse to draw various boundaries in the retinal cross-sectional images. OCTOR is publicly accessible at http://www.diesel.la and has been described and validated in previous reports.[20,23]

Analogous to the StratusOCT software, OCTOR provides a report showing the calculated thickness and volume values for the nine ETDRS macular subfields, as well as the mean and SD of the foveal center point thickness. OCTOR also provides both maximum and minimum thickness values for any given morphologic space.

Grading Procedure

OCT scans were analyzed by certified OCT graders at the Doheny Image Reading Center (PAK, YO), who were masked to associated visual acuity information at the time of grading. Boundaries drawn in each of the six OCT B-scans included the internal limiting membrane, the outer border of the photoreceptors, the borders of subretinal fluid (SRF) and subretinal tissue (if present), the inner surface of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), and the estimated normal position of the RPE layer (in cases of RPE elevation). All boundaries were drawn in accordance with the standard OCT grading protocol of the Doheny Image Reading Center.[23] All OCT scans included in the study met reading center criteria for sufficient image quality, including the absence of significant artifactitious variations in signal intensity or generalized reductions in signal strength. No minimum value for signal strength was set, as manual grading with OCTOR often allows quantitative information to be accurately derived from images with low signal strength (image sets are only excluded when the grader cannot accurately delineate the inner and outer retinal boundaries). After completion of grading, OCTOR was used to calculate output parameters for the various morphologic spaces: retina, SRF, subretinal tissue, and pigment epithelium detachment (PED; Fig. 1).

Statistical Methods

The mean and SD of the foveal center point thickness, as well as the total volume (subfields 1–9), were calculated for each space in each case. Volume was measured in cubic millimeters, and thickness was measured in micrometers.

Univariate and multivariate regression was used to test for associations between visual function parameters and OCT parameters. Stepwise regression was used for selection of independent parameters when the improvement χ^2 P-value was < 0.15. Linearity was examined by testing for higher-order polynomial terms for each continuous variable in the final multivariate model. To reduce potential collinearity, we did not include highly correlated variables ($r \geq 0.90$) in the same model. Statistical analysis and graph generation were performed with commercially available software (Intercooled Stata for Windows, ver. 9; Statacorp LP, College Station, TX).

RESULTS

Baseline Characteristics

One hundred twenty-two patients, with newly diagnosed neovascular AMD and enrolled in the ABC Trial, were evaluated. We used the Radial Lines scan protocol to image 79 (65%) eyes on StratusOCT and the Fast Macular Thickness scan protocol on the remaining 43 (35%). Of the 122 patients included in our analysis, 76 (62%) were women and 46 (38%) were men. The mean age of the patients was 80 years (SD 7.1) and the median age was 81 years (range, 58–93). The mean visual acuity at the time of initial diagnosis was 52.15 letters (SD 11.62; range, 25–70). The mean contrast sensitivity at the time of initial diagnosis was 0.84 ± 0.33 log CS. The mean reading acuity at the time of initial diagnosis was 0.89 ± 0.30 log RAD (reading acuity determination). The neovascular lesions were categorized by fluorescein angiography as classic with no occult (8 eyes, 7%), predominantly classic (20 eyes, 16%), minimally classic (37 eyes, 30%), and occult with no classic (57 eyes, 47%).

Morphologic Outcomes of OCTOR Analysis

The mean thickness of the neurosensory retina at the foveal center point was 269 ± 91 μm (mean ± SD). Retinal thickness was greatest in lesions classified as classic with no occult (306 ± 105 μm) and least in minimally classic (258 ± 64 μm) lesions. SRF was present at baseline in 104 (85%) eyes and had a total volume of 0.55 ± 1.16 mm³. SRF volume was greatest in classic with no occult lesions (0.72 ± 1.15 mm³) and least in minimally classic lesions (0.39 ± 0.48 mm³). PED was present at baseline in 104 (85%) eyes and had a total volume of 0.78 ± 0.92 mm³. PED volume was greatest in occult (0.91 ± 0.99 mm³) and minimally classic (0.95 ± 0.99 mm³) lesions and least in classic with no occult (0.16 ± 0.38 mm³) lesions. Subretinal tissue was present at baseline in 109 (89%) eyes and had a total volume of 0.56 ± 0.61 mm³. Subretinal tissue volume was greatest in classic with no occult lesions (1.09 ± 0.90 mm³) and least in occult with no classic lesions (0.30 ± 0.44 mm³).

Contrast Sensitivity

The association between contrast sensitivity and each of the OCT parameters is summarized in Table 1.
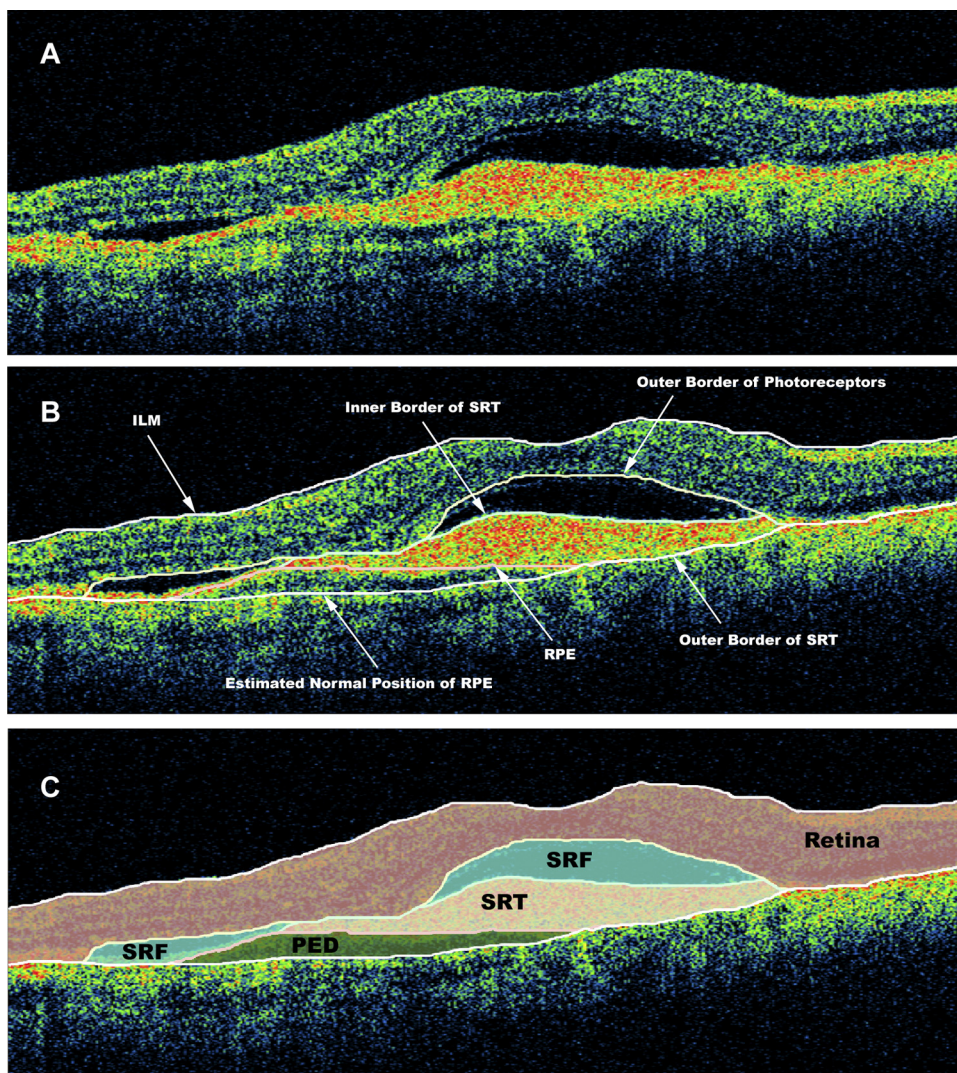
FIGURE 1. OCT B-scan demonstrating (**A**) subretinal tissue, SRF, and PED. (**B**) The clinically relevant boundaries—the internal limiting membrane (ILM), the outer border of the photoreceptors, the RPE, the inner border of the subretinal tissue, the outer border of the subretinal tissue (SRT), and the estimated normal location of the RPE layer—were graded by OCTOR (computer-assisted manual grading) software. (**C**) The software then computed the volumes of the spaces (retina, SRT, SRF, and PED) defined by these boundaries.

Neurosensory Retina. No statistically significant association was detected between contrast sensitivity and either total volume of the neurosensory retina (Pearson correlation coefficient [r] = -0.1265, $P = 0.165$) or thickness of the neurosensory retina at the foveal center ($r = -0.1755$, $P = 0.053$).

Subretinal Fluid. Decreased contrast sensitivity correlated with an increased total volume of SRF ($r = -0.2562$, $P = 0.004$), but not with the thickness of SRF at the foveal center ($r = 0.0628$, $P = 0.492$).

Subretinal Tissue. Decreased contrast sensitivity demonstrated a statistically significant correlation with an increased total volume of subretinal tissue ($r = -0.4944$, $P < 0.001$) and, to a lesser extent, with increased thickness of subretinal tissue at the foveal center ($r = -0.2831$, $P = 0.002$).

Pigment Epithelium Detachment. No statistically significant association was detected between contrast sensitivity and either the total volume of PED ($r = -0.0762$, $P = 0.241$) or the thickness of PED at the foveal center ($r = -0.1189$, $P = 0.192$).

TABLE 1. Univariate Model of Contrast Sensitivity and OCT Predictive Factors

Factor	Model R^2	Parameter Estimate	P
Foveal center point thickness (μm)			
Neurosensory retina	0.0308	-0.0006444	0.053
SRF	0.0039	0.0003467	0.492
Subretinal tissue	0.0802	-0.0010277	**0.002**
PED	0.0058	-0.0002544	0.404
Total volume (mm^3)			
Neurosensory retina	0.0160	-0.0438253	0.165
SRF	0.0657	-0.0740246	**0.004**
Subretinal tissue	0.2445	-0.2684146	**0.001**
PED	0.0058	-0.0276908	0.404

Bold data indicate significant results.

TABLE 2. Univariate Model of Reading Ability and OCT Predictive Factors

Factor	Model R^2	Parameter Estimate	P
Foveal center point thickness (μm)			
Neurosensory retina	0.0956	0.0010175	**0.001**
SRF	0.0013	0.0001752	0.699
Subretinal tissue	0.0922	0.0009879	**0.001**
PED	0.0028	−0.0001015	0.563
Total volume (mm^3)			
Neurosensory retina	0.0485	0.0684034	**0.015**
SRF	0.0212	0.0377354	0.109
Subretinal tissue	0.1865	0.2101417	**<0.001**
PED	0.0008	−0.0094513	0.751

Bold data indicate significant results.

Reading Ability

The association between reading ability and each of the OCT parameters is summarized in Table 2.

Neurosensory Retina. Decreased reading ability correlated with increased thickness of the neurosensory retina at the foveal center ($r = 0.3091$, $P = 0.001$) and with the total volume of the neurosensory retina ($r = 0.2202$, $P = 0.015$).

Subretinal Fluid. No statistically significant association was detected between reading ability and either total volume of SRF ($r = 0.1457$, $P = 0.109$) or thickness of SRF at the foveal center ($r = 0.0354$, $P = 0.699$).

Subretinal Tissue. Decreased reading ability demonstrated a statistically significant correlation with an increased total volume of subretinal tissue ($r = 0.4318$, $P < 0.001$) and, to a lesser extent, with increased thickness of subretinal tissue at the foveal center ($r = 0.3036$, $P = 0.001$).

Pigment Epithelium Detachment. No statistically significant association was detected between reading ability and either the total volume of PED ($r = -0.029$, $P = 0.751$) or the thickness of PED at the foveal center ($r = -0.052$, $P = 0.563$).

Visual Acuity

The association between ETDRS visual acuity and each of the OCT parameters was also evaluated and is summarized in Table 3.

Multivariate OCT Models of Visual Function

Multiple regression analysis, with a visual function parameter as the dependent variable in each case, yielded the models summarized in Table 4. These models had a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 24.45%, 22.74%, and 22.17% for contrast sensitivity, reading ability, and ETDRS visual acuity, respectively.

DISCUSSION

In this cross-sectional study of patients enrolled in a recently completed phase III/IV clinical trial, we identified several novel OCT-derived parameters that demonstrated moderate, but statistically significant, correlations with contrast sensitivity and reading ability in patients with newly diagnosed neovascular AMD.

In neovascular AMD, the abnormal blood vessels that constitute the choroidal neovascular membrane may pass directly into the subretinal space after their initial penetration of Bruch's membrane (type 2 CNV on histology).[24] In these initial growth phases, the CNV membrane is often highly vascular and appears on OCT as an amorphous lesion of medium to high reflectivity above the RPE. As the CNV lesion becomes less active over time, the vascular component typically regresses, whereas the fibrous component increases, resulting in disciform scar formation that appears on OCT as a well demarcated highly hyperreflective lesion.[25] In the present study, an increased volume of subretinal tissue correlated significantly with a decrease in all three parameters of visual function in particular, 24% of the variation in contrast sensitivity at baseline could be explained by an increased total volume of subretinal tissue ($r = -0.4944$, $P = 0.001$). Since the positioning of the fibrovascular tissue in the subretinal space may disrupt communication between the photoreceptors and the RPE, a deleterious effect on contrast sensitivity is not surprising. In addition, disciform scar formation may be associated with loss of the overlying photoreceptor layer and irreversible reduction in visual function, often seen as disruption of the inner segment–outer segment junction (IS/OS) on newer spectral domain OCT systems.[26,27] Manual segmentation of spectral domain OCT images may allow quantification of IS/OS disruption and measurement of photoreceptor outer segment thickness,

TABLE 3. Univariate Model of ETDRS Visual Acuity and OCT Predictive Factors

Factor	Model R^2	Parameter Estimate	P
Foveal center point thickness (μm)			
Neurosensory retina	0.2053	−0.0579249	**<0.001**
SRF	0.0234	0.0294218	0.092
Subretinal tissue	0.0300	−0.0218945	0.056
PED	0.0011	0.0024761	0.716
Total volume (mm^3)			
Neurosensory retina	0.0900	−3.620042	**0.001**
SRF	0.0194	−1.399761	0.126
Subretinal tissue	0.0661	−4.858363	**0.001**
PED	0.0114	1.351158	0.241

Bold data indicate significant results.

TABLE 4. Multivariate Models of Visual Function and OCT Predictive Factors*

Factor	Model R^2	Improvement χ^2 P*
Model 1 (ETDRS visual acuity)	0.2217	
Thickness of neurosensory retina at FCP (μm)		<0.0001
Total volume of subretinal tissue (mm^3)		0.116
Model 2 (contrast sensitivity)	0.2445	
Total volume of subretinal tissue (mm^3)		<0.0001
No other significant variables		
Model 3 (reading ability)	0.2274	
Thickness of neurosensory retina at foveal central subfield (μm)		0.0130
Total volume of subretinal tissue (mm^3)		<0.0001

FCP, foveal center point.

* Stepwise regression was used to select the variables that were independently associated with visual acuity.

as well as allowing more precise delineation of fibrovascular tissue in the subretinal space. (On StratusOCT, it may be difficult to differentiate the fibrovascular tissue from coexisting hemorrhage, lipid, or thick fibrin, all of which may be present in the subretinal space and appear hyperreflective.)

In other cases of neovascular AMD, growth of CNV in the sub-RPE space (type 1 CNV on histology) produces an elevated lesion that is often visible on clinical examination and is termed a fibrovascular PED.[24,28] Growth of the lesion in the sub-RPE space is often accompanied by leakage of serous fluid or by frank hemorrhage, leading to the formation of serous or hemorrhagic PEDs.[29] In the ABC Trial, increased PED volume was not associated with decreased contrast sensitivity or reading ability, a finding consistent with those in previous angiographic studies.[30] This lack of correlation is perhaps not surprising, as the presence of the PED beneath the RPE may not always result in disruption of photoreceptor-RPE interactions. Furthermore, any changes in contrast sensitivity or reading ability may be dependent on the structural characteristics of the PED. Such an analysis was not performed in the present study, in part due to the relative inability of StratusOCT to visualize the areas underneath the highly reflective RPE. Recently, the use of spectral domain OCT with multiple B-scan averaging has allowed improved visualization of the sub-RPE space.[31] Using this method, fibrovascular PEDs can often be seen to consist of solid layers of hyperreflective material, separated by hyporeflective clefts, whereas areas of solid material—the apparent fibrovascular proliferation—can be seen to adhere to the outer surface of the RPE in serous PEDs. In the future, quantitative subanalysis of such images may facilitate the detection of significant associations with visual function in this disorder.

As the choroidal neovascular membrane grows, either in the subretinal or sub-RPE spaces, it is often accompanied by profuse leakage from its immature blood vessels. Consequently, pockets of fluid commonly accumulate between the neurosensory retina and the RPE, and these areas may be seen on OCT as hyporeflective spaces.[23] In the current report, a weak, but statistically significant, correlation was detected between an increased total volume of SRF and a decrease in contrast sensitivity ($r = -0.2562$, $P = 0.004$), a relationship not seen for either reading ability or ETDRS visual acuity. When fluid exudation is serous, SRF pockets are seen on OCT as homogenous hyporeflective spaces; when the exudate contains fibrin or red blood cells, the area of SRF may be sparsely hyperreflective. Profuse fibrinous exudation in neovascular AMD, seen after PDT or in particularly active classic CNV lesions, may result in the formation of distinct SRF compartments separated by fibrinous membranes.[32] The increased sensitivity of spectral domain OCT allows enhanced visualization of the subretinal space, and assessment of the optical density of

SRF compartments may facilitate detection of more robust correlations with visual function parameters.[33]

In neovascular AMD, disruption of the external limiting membrane (ELM)–photoreceptor complex in the outer retina, by the active CNV lesion, results in the accumulation of fluid in the neurosensory retina.[34] Initially, this fluid collection manifests as diffuse thickening of the outer nuclear layer. However, with more severe fluid exudation, cystoid spaces, seen on OCT as round or oval hyporeflective areas, may form.[35,36] Thus, thickening of the neurosensory retina is a common feature in patients with neovascular AMD.[37] In the present study, subjects enrolled in the ABC Trial showed a moderate correlation at baseline between increased retinal thickness at the foveal center and decreased visual function. Approximately 20% of the variation in ETDRS visual acuity in these patients could be explained by thickening of the neurosensory retina ($r = -0.4530$, $P < 0.001$). Failure to detect a stronger correlation may be related to the heterogeneous structural characteristics of this disorder. Retinal thickening is less commonly seen in lesions where CNV growth is contained entirely beneath the RPE[9] or in lesions more advanced at initial presentation and thus associated with substantial photoreceptor degeneration.[5] Furthermore, in some patients, geographic atrophy, and thus reduced retinal thickness, may predate the occurrence of CNV.[38]

Our study has several strengths: (1) the utilization of manual segmentation, performed at a dedicated OCT image reading center, to quantify any morphologic space of interest in an objective, reproducible, manner; (2) the correlation of OCT findings with multiple visual function parameters obtained with trained personnel in the context of a multicenter clinical trial (in particular, the use of ETDRS visual acuity obtained after protocol refraction; (3) the replication, using ETDRS visual acuity, of OCT-VA correlations previously determined with quantitative subanalysis in the context of a single-center, retrospective series in which best-corrected Snellen visual acuities were used.[9]

Our study also had several limitations. Accurate data were not available regarding disease duration, a potentially key determinant of visual acuity at presentation in patients with neovascular AMD. In addition, the correlations detected in the present study are cross-sectional in nature. Further analysis is necessary to determine the way in which changes in visual acuity correspond to changes in OCT parameters over time. Finally, the study was performed with StratusOCT, which is the most commonly used OCT device worldwide but is based on older, time domain technology and thus is limited by slower scanning speeds. Future clinical trials are likely to adopt the next generation of OCT technology, spectral domain OCT, for the analysis of anatomic parameters.[39] The high speed of spectral domain OCT allows dense raster scanning of the macula,

reducing the need for interpolation algorithms and thus increasing the accuracy of any quantitative information. The rapid scanning of spectral domain OCT also allows multiple B-scan averaging, which reduces coherent speckle noise. The resulting improvement in image quality may allow more detailed delineation of the complex morphologic changes that occur in neovascular AMD, in particular detailed assessments of the photoreceptor inner and outer segments and their interaction with the RPE.[31] Unfortunately, however, manual segmentation of individual OCT B-scans from a dense spectral domain OCT dataset is unlikely to be feasible in large a number of patients.[37] As a first step, it is important to determine the optimal OCT B-scan density for the provision of both quantitative and qualitative information in the management of patients with neovascular AMD. With such knowledge, manual segmentation of spectral domain OCT datasets may allow exploratory analysis of novel OCT parameters, improvement in automated segmentation algorithms may then allow such parameters to be quantified in large clinical trials. In the interim, until large spectral domain OCT datasets in the context of clinical trials become available, analysis of existing StratusOCT datasets may help guide the selection of candidate parameters for quantification in future studies.

In summary, the strongest correlation detected between the functional parameters assessed and any of the OCT-derived morphologic parameters was that between decreased contrast sensitivity and increased total volume of subretinal tissue. A combination of increased thickness of the neurosensory retina at the foveal center and increased subretinal tissue volume was also associated with decreased reading ability. In the future, assessment of contrast sensitivity and reading ability is likely to acquire renewed importance for the clinician in the management of neovascular AMD, either in the assessment of visual performance in patients who maintain adequate levels of distance visual acuity, or in the evaluation of the relative efficacy of new therapies. Furthermore, assessment of contrast sensitivity and reading ability, in combination with quantitative subanalysis of retinal compartments using spectral domain OCT, may lead to the identification of parameters relevant for functional improvement and ultimate prognosis in patients with newly diagnosed neovascular AMD.

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