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## Fluorescein angiography vs. optical coherence tomography for diagnosis of uveitic macular edema

John H. Kempen, MD, PhD<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Elizabeth A. Sugar, PhD<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Glenn J. Jaffe, MD<sup>7</sup>, Nisha R. Acharya, MD, MS<sup>8,9</sup>, James P. Dunn, MD<sup>10</sup>, Susan G. Elner, MD<sup>11</sup>, Susan L. Lightman, MD, PhD<sup>12</sup>, Jennifer E. Thorne, MD, PhD<sup>4,5,10</sup>, Albert T. Vitale, MD<sup>13</sup>, and Michael M. Altaweel, MD<sup>14</sup> for The Multicenter Uveitis Steroid Treatment (MUST) Trial Research Group\*

<sup>1</sup>Ocular Inflammation Service, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
<sup>2</sup>Center for Preventive Ophthalmology and Biostatistics, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Ophthalmology/Scheie Eye Institute, and the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
<sup>4</sup>Center for Clinical Trials, The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Epidemiology, The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland  
<sup>6</sup>Department of Biostatistics, The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland  
<sup>7</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina  
<sup>8</sup>The Francis I. Proctor Foundation, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, California  
<sup>9</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, California  
<sup>10</sup>the Department of Ophthalmology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland  
<sup>11</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, The University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
<sup>12</sup>the Department of Ophthalmology, University College London/Institute of Ophthalmology, London, United Kingdom  
<sup>13</sup>the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah  
<sup>14</sup>the Fundus Photograph Reading Center, Department of Ophthalmology, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

### Abstract

**Objective**—To evaluate agreement between fluorescein angiography (FA) and optical coherence tomography (OCT) for diagnosis of macular edema in patients with uveitis.

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Corresponding author: John H. Kempen, M.D., Ph.D.; Address: Center for Preventive Ophthalmology and Biostatistics; Department of Ophthalmology; University of Pennsylvania; 3535 Market Street, Suite 700; Philadelphia, PA 19104; john.kempen@uphs.upenn.edu.

**Reprint Requests:** Douglas A. Jabs, MD, MBA; MUST Chairman's Office-Department of Ophthalmology-Mount Sinai School of Medicine; One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1183; New York, NY 10029-6574; douglas.jabs@mssm.edu

\*Credit Roster available at <http://aaojournal.org>

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Supplemental Material: This article contains online-only material. The following should appear online-only: Table 2 and the Credit Roster.

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**Design**—Multicenter cross-sectional study

**Participants**—Four hundred seventy-nine eyes with uveitis of 255 patients

**Methods**—The macular status of dilated eyes with intermediate, posterior or panuveitis was assessed via Stratus-3 OCT and FA. Kappa statistics evaluated agreement between the diagnostic approaches.

**Main Outcome Measures**—Macular thickening (center point thickness  $\geq 240$   $\mu\text{m}$  per reading center grading of OCT images—“MT”) and macular leakage (central subfield fluorescein leakage  $\geq 0.44$  disk areas per reading center grading of FA images—“ML”); agreement amongst these outcomes in diagnosing “macular edema.”

**Results**—OCT (90.4%) more frequently returned usable information regarding macular edema than FA (77%) and biomicroscopy (76%). Agreement in diagnosis of MT and ML ( $\kappa=0.44$ ) was moderate. ML was present in 40% of cases free of MT, whereas MT was present in 34% of cases without ML. Biomicroscopic evaluation for macular edema failed to detect 40% and 45% of cases of MT and ML respectively and diagnosed 17% and 17% of cases with macular edema which did not have MT or ML respectively; these results may underestimate biomicroscopic errors (ophthalmologists were not explicitly masked to OCT and FA results). Among eyes free of ML, phakic eyes without cataract rarely (4%) had MT. No factors were found that effectively ruled out ML when MT was absent.

**Conclusion**—OCT and FA offered only moderate agreement regarding macular edema status in uveitis cases, probably because what they measure (MT and ML) are related but non-identical macular pathologies. Given its lower cost, greater safety, and greater likelihood of obtaining usable information, OCT may be the best initial test for evaluation of suspected macular edema. However, given that ML cannot be ruled out if MT is absent and vice versa, obtaining the second test after a negative result on the first seems justified when detection of ML or MT would alter management. Given that biomicroscopic evaluation for macular edema frequently erred, ancillary testing for macular edema seems indicated when knowledge of ML or MT status would affect management.

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Uveitis is an important cause of blindness and vision loss, often causing visual impairment during the working years.<sup>1–6</sup> Macular edema, a potentially reversible complication of uveitis, is the most common cause of visual impairment among patients with uveitis in tertiary settings.<sup>1,4</sup> When macular edema is detected and treated, vision loss often can be reversed, particularly if treated early.<sup>7</sup> Hence, detection of macular edema is a high priority in the management of patients with uveitis.

Macular edema often is detectable by biomicroscopy, but is diagnosed more easily with fluorescein angiography (FA) or optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging. In 2004, an expert consensus panel, the Standardization of Uveitis Nomenclature (SUN) Working Group, concluded that reporting of macular edema in clinical studies based on clinical observation of definite macular edema was acceptable, but that use of confirmatory ancillary testing was preferable for prospective studies.<sup>8</sup> The group did not specify whether FA or OCT imaging was preferred. Historically, FA was the method most commonly used for this purpose, imaging fluorescein leakage and accumulation in the macula. Because OCT imaging does not require intravenous administration of fluorescein and directly assesses macular thickness and the presence of intraretinal cysts—key aspects of macular edema—it has begun to supplant FA as the method most commonly used for evaluation of macular edema in clinical trials regarding retinal diseases.

Because the anatomic macular thickening assessed by OCT (MT) and the physiological macular leakage assessed by FA (ML) are different but related entities within the spectrum

of “macular edema,” it would be valuable to identify whether there are circumstances wherein the tests are likely to be complementary rather than redundant in the setting of uveitis. In the Multicenter Uveitis Steroid Treatment (MUST) Trial, a large group of patients with intermediate, posterior and panuveitis received protocol-driven fluorescein angiography and Stratus-3 time-domain OCT imaging at the same point in time regardless of whether macular edema was suspected. To evaluate the interrelationship between these alternative approaches for diagnosing macular edema, we used these results to calculate measures of agreement and of the ability of each alternative approach to predict MT (per OCT) or ML (per FA). We also sought to identify risk factors for ML when MT was absent and vice versa.

## Patients and Methods

The MUST Trial is a randomized, parallel treatment clinical trial comparing fluocinolone acetonide implant therapy vs. systemic corticosteroids plus immunosuppression when indicated for non-infectious intermediate, posterior, and panuveitis (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00132691, accessed on January 18, 2013). Two hundred fifty-five patients (479 eyes with uveitis) have been enrolled at 23 centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Institutional review board approval was obtained and maintained throughout the study for each participating center.

We have published the study’s methodologic details and primary results previously.<sup>9,10</sup> In brief, patients enrolled had currently or recently active uveitis (within 60 days) of a degree for which systemic corticosteroid therapy was indicated in at least one eye. Inability to image the fundus was not an exclusion criterion. Information from the baseline visit for all eyes with uveitis, regardless of whether that particular eye met eligibility criteria, are included in this analysis.

Demographic and clinical features used in this analysis included: age, race, presence of associated systemic disease, visual acuity, lens status, presence vs. absence of anterior and vitreous cells, vitreous haze grading,<sup>8,11</sup> and whether the uveitis was judged to be active or inactive at baseline. Baseline assessments also included evaluation for macular edema using OCT imaging of macular thickening and fluorescein angiography imaging of macular fluorescein leakage. In addition, clinical evaluation for macular edema using slit-lamp biomicroscopy was performed (the protocol did not explicitly forbid viewing of OCT and FA images prior to grading, although in most cases imaging would have been performed afterward). Stereoscopic macular photographs also were evaluated initially, but were less sensitive than the first three techniques for detection of uveitic macular edema.

Ocular imaging—performed through a dilated pupil—included time domain OCT (Zeiss Stratus 3) and fluorescein angiography. Fast Macular Thickness scans evaluated the center point of macula of each eye with uveitis, and high resolution scans were used for evaluation of intraretinal cystic spaces. Data were acquired from the images by trained Reading Center graders following a detailed protocol for OCT grading. Central macular thickness data were derived directly from scans determined to be of high quality, to serve as a measure of macular edema using this modality. Scans of suboptimal quality (low signal strength, high standard deviation, decentration or misidentification of internal limiting membrane and retinal pigment epithelium boundaries by the automated algorithm) were manually measured at the fovea to avoid artifacts.<sup>12,13</sup> OCT-measured macular thickness at the center point, as an indicator of macular edema status, was categorized for purposes of this analysis as <200  $\mu\text{m}$  (no macular thickening), 200–239  $\mu\text{m}$  (borderline), 240  $\mu\text{m}$  (macular thickening) or Missing (when images were either unable to be obtained or unable to be graded). For the primary analysis, an eye was considered to have macular thickening (MT) if the retinal

thickness was 240  $\mu\text{m}$ . Sensitivity analyses based upon a cut-point of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  also were performed.

Fluorescein angiography included stereo photos of the macula in each eye obtained sequentially over a period of 10 minutes after fluorescein injection. These were graded for the presence and area of macular leakage in the central 0.44 disc areas of the macula (Early Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) central subfield) by Reading Center graders, as an indicator of macular edema using this modality. Eyes that were not evaluable or with unavailable images were listed as 'Cannot assess' or 'Missing', respectively. For the purposes of this analysis, eyes with leakage of 0.44 disc areas (i.e., covering the entire central subfield of the macula) were categorized as having macular leakage ("ML"). Sensitivity analyses examining the effect of any leakage produced similar results.

Throughout the study, the Reading Center conducted inter-observer and re-grading exercises in order maintain a high level of quality control on the reproducibility of OCT and FA gradings.

Clinical evaluation of uveitic eyes included slit-lamp biomicroscopy with a condensing lens to evaluate the macula of each eye with uveitis through a dilated pupil. Macular edema was graded clinically as: Present, Absent, Borderline/Equivocal, or Cannot Assess. For the primary analysis, only eyes graded as 'Present' were considered to have macular edema. Sensitivity analyses based upon the combination of 'Present' and 'Borderline/Equivocal' were performed. No specific training in the clinical diagnosis of macular edema was given to the uveitis experts participating in the study, who typically use biomicroscopy to diagnose macular edema ("biomicroscopic ME"). These ophthalmologists were not explicitly forbidden from viewing OCT or FA images prior to grading, although typically photography would be done after grading.

Logistic regression models using robust standard errors were used to assess success in evaluating macular edema status, and risk factors. Estimates of the probability of a certain test result when an alternative test result was positive or negative were computed using generalized estimating equation models with an exchangeable correlation structure to account for correlated within-individual repeated measurements if both eyes had uveitis, and to account for missing data. Kappa statistics and conditional probabilities were used to evaluate the agreement between different methods for diagnosing macular edema; the bootstrap approach was used to estimate the 95% confidence intervals adjusting for between-eye correlation. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS Version 9.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) and R Version 2.11.1 (The R Project for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

## Results

### Ability to Assess Macular Edema Status

Among 479 uveitic eyes of 255 patients enrolled in the MUST Trial, 436 (91%, 95% Confidence Interval (CI): 87% to 94%) eyes were successfully imaged and graded for quantitative macular center point thickness (MT) using OCT. In contrast, only 369 (77%, 95% CI: 72% to 82%) eyes were successfully imaged and graded as having or not having macular leakage throughout the central 0.44 disc area (ML) using FA. Clinical examination also succeeded in categorizing only 366 (76%, 95% CI: 72% to 80%) eyes as having or not having biomicroscopic ME, and 49 additional eyes were classified as "borderline/equivocal." Inability to image and grade eyes in most instances was the result of media opacity in this cohort of eyes with uveitis. Additional characteristics of eyes and patients enrolled in the MUST Trial have been reported previously.<sup>9</sup>

Among the 436 eyes successfully assessed for macular thickness by OCT, 54 (12%) could not be assessed by FA and 19 had missing angiograms (4%); by clinical examination, 27 (6%) could not be assessed and for 6 (2%) the grading was missing. In contrast, among cases which were not successfully assessed using OCT, few were successfully categorized using the other approaches: 6 using fluorescein angiography, and 10 using clinical examination (not counting “borderline/equivocal” gradings).

### Diagnosis of Macular Edema

The percentage of eyes diagnosed with macular edema varied according to the method of evaluation. Respectively for OCT and FA, the percentage of eyes with macular edema was 36% (95% CI: 31%–42%) and 39% (95% CI: 33%–42%). By biomicroscopy, 32% (95% CI: 27%–39%) were diagnosed as having macular edema; if cases diagnosed clinically as “borderline/equivocal” were considered to be macular edema, then the percentage of eyes with macular edema identified by clinical examination increased to 44% (95% CI: 38%–51%).

### Agreement in Diagnosing Macular Edema

The distribution of macular center point thickness by macular edema status as determined by alternative methods of assessing macular edema is given as Table 1. Macular edema status as determined by fluorescein angiography (macular leakage) and clinical biomicroscopic examination each were strongly associated with increased center point retinal thickness ( $p < 0.0001$  for all comparisons; see Table 1), supporting the concept that all approaches are assessing related findings. However, the methods did not agree perfectly (see Figure 1 and Table 2 (available at <http://aaojournal.org>)). Kappa values among those eyes with each pair of measurements available indicated fair to moderate agreement<sup>14</sup> between OCT-measured center point thickening ( $> 240 \mu\text{m}$ ) and either fluorescein angiography-measured leakage (0.44 disc areas (Kappa=0.44, 95% CI: 0.34 to 0.54) or biomicroscopic findings that macular edema was present (Kappa=0.46, 95% CI: 0.35–0.57). Agreement between fluorescein angiography and clinical examination was similar (Kappa=0.42, 95% CI: 0.30–0.53). Sensitivity analyses considering a “borderline/equivocal” clinical grading to indicate the presence of macular edema yielded similar results.

The presence of cysts on OCT ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and of cystoid changes on FA ( $p < 0.0001$ ) also were strongly associated with increased macular center point thickness.

### Diagnosis of Macular Thickening by Fluorescein Angiography or Clinical Examination

Among the 155 eyes with central macular thickening  $> 240 \mu\text{m}$  (based on Generalized Estimating Equations models accounting for excess correlation between eyes of the same patient and missing data, see above), FA-determined macular leakage was absent or involved less than the entire 0.44 disc area ETDRS central subfield for an estimated 34% (95% CI: 26%–43%) of eyes with macular thickening, whereas macular leakage was present involving at least 0.44 disc area for 25% (95% CI: 19%–32%) of eyes without macular thickening. The cases without fluorescein leakage tended to have less thickening than those with leakage (see Table 1, Figure 1), but a substantial minority of eyes without leakage over the central 0.44 disc areas had macular thickening  $> 240 \mu\text{m}$ .

Among those for whom clinical classification of macular edema was achieved, clinical diagnosis of macular edema was made in 60% (95% CI: 51%–68%) of eyes with retinal thickening whereas macular edema was judged to be absent in 83% (95% CI: 76%–87%) of eyes without macular thickening. If borderline/equivocal clinical diagnoses are considered to indicate macular edema, the positive predictive value of clinical examination for macular

thickening would be 72%. Similar results were observed when defining macular thickening as  $\geq 200 \mu\text{m}$  (results not shown).

### Diagnosis of Macular Leakage by Optical Coherence Tomography or Clinical Examination

Among 145 eyes with fluorescein leakage affecting  $\geq 0.44$  disc areas (DA) of the central macula, macular thickness  $\geq 240 \mu\text{m}$  was absent in 40% (95% CI: 32%–49%), whereas the macular thickness was  $\geq 240 \mu\text{m}$  or more in 17% (95% CI: 12%–24%) of the eyes with no leakage or leakage less than 0.44 DA. Alternatively defining MT as a central point thickness  $\geq 200 \mu\text{m}$  instead of  $\geq 240 \mu\text{m}$  had a higher sensitivity but lower specificity for macular leakage  $>0.44$  DA.

Biomicroscopic macular edema was present for 55% (95% CI: 45%–64%) of eyes for which macular leakage covering the central 0.44 disc areas was detected by FA, whereas biomicroscopic macular edema was graded as absent in 83% (95% CI: 75%–88%) of eyes with absent macular leakage or macular leakage involving less than 0.44 DA. Alternatively, if eyes with borderline/equivocal clinical diagnoses were considered to have biomicroscopic macular edema, the sensitivity of biomicroscopic macular edema for macular leakage  $>0.44$  DA increased to 66%, but the specificity declined.

### Factors Associated with Macular Leakage in Eyes Free of Macular Thickening

To provide guidance regarding the usefulness of FA following an OCT demonstrating normal or minimally abnormal macular findings, we evaluated the yield of FA investigation in cases free of macular thickening  $\geq 240 \mu\text{m}$ . Among these, 23% (95% CI: 18%–29%) were found to have macular leakage  $\geq 0.44$  disc areas by FA. Our evaluation of factors associated with a higher or lower risk of macular leakage in eyes free of macular thickening is summarized in Table 3. Factors associated with higher risk of macular leakage included best-corrected visual acuity worse than 20/40 vs 20/40 or better (odds ratio (OR)=4.45, 95% CI: 2.42, 8.17), evidence of macular edema on clinical examination (OR=3.81, 95% CI: 1.73, 8.38), the presence of cataract or prior cataract surgery vs. no cataract (OR=3.01, 95% CI: 1.25, 7.24), and age  $\geq 55$  years vs less (OR=2.42, 95% CI: 1.13, 5.17). After adjusting for confounding via multiple logistic regression, only visual acuity and biomicroscopic macular edema were statistically significantly associated with macular leakage among eyes free of macular thickening. However, among these factors, none of the lower risk categories were associated with a risk of macular leakage less than 10%; none of the characteristics effectively ruled out the possibility of macular leakage.

### Factors Associated with Macular Thickening in Eyes Free of Macular Leakage

To provide guidance regarding the usefulness of OCT following an FA which demonstrates normal or minimally abnormal macular findings, we also evaluated the yield of OCT investigation in cases free of macular leakage  $>0.44$  DA. Among these, 17% (95% CI: 12%–24%) were found to have macular thickening  $\geq 240 \mu\text{m}$  by OCT. Our reciprocal evaluation of factors associated with higher odds of macular thickening among those without macular leakage is given in Table 4. Factors associated with higher risk included the presence of cataract or prior cataract surgery vs. no cataract (OR= 6.89, 95% CI: 2.11, 22.5), presence of macular edema on clinical examination (OR=4.87, 95% CI: 2.14, 11.1), cystoid changes on the fluorescein angiogram vs not (OR=4.74, 95% CI: 1.79–12.5), age  $\geq 55$  years vs less (OR=3.83, 95% CI: 1.74–8.41), Caucasian vs. non-Caucasian race (OR=2.94, 95% CI: 1.25–7.14), and visual acuity worse than 20/40 vs 20/40 or better (OR=2.81, 95% CI: 1.36, 5.79). The observed proportion with macular thickening in a phakic eye free of cataract was only 4% (3 cases); otherwise, none of the lower risk categories of these factors was associated with a risk of macular thickening less than 10%.

## Discussion

Although OCT-measured thickening and FA-measured macular leakage both are used widely for diagnosis of macular edema in the setting of uveitis, they do not image the same thing. Fluorescein leakage demonstrates a pathophysiological process of leakage from blood vessels, which is often but not always associated with macular thickening. Possible instances where leakage might be present in the absence of thickening include a severely damaged macula that is atrophic and thin but has ongoing inflammatory leakage, a macula where leakage has recently begun and thickening has not yet occurred, a macula distorted by epiretinal membrane but not thickened, or a macula where leakage is balanced by physiologic outflow of fluid from the macula providing a steady state without thickening. Likewise, macular thickening may occur for reasons other than current vascular leakage (e.g., failure to clear osmotically active molecules from the retina or dysfunction of the retinal pigment epithelial pump<sup>15</sup>), and might take some time to clear after leakage is no longer present under otherwise favorable circumstances.

Thus, it is not surprising that our results indicate that these findings are related but not interchangeable. Findings of macular thickening by OCT and macular leakage by FA demonstrated only moderate agreement, presumably because one measures anatomy and the other physiology. The degree of agreement was similar to that observed in the few previous smaller studies of birdshot retinochoroiditis cases,<sup>16</sup> and uveitis cases.<sup>17</sup> An earlier study using an OCT 2000 scanner (Humphrey Instruments, San Leandro, CA) focused on the presence of cysts on OCT and any degree of fluid on FA;<sup>18</sup> this study found a better degree of agreement between these outcomes than we observed in the different outcomes that we studied, focusing on macular thickening, which we have demonstrated is more predictive of reduction in visual acuity than macular cysts.<sup>6</sup> The presence of cysts on OCT or cystoid changes on FA were strongly associated with macular thickening by OCT and macular leakage on FA respectively in our study.

OCT has logistical advantages over FA, in that it is less expensive, less invasive, faster, and safer/better tolerated. A further advantage is that newer spectral domain OCT imaging—where available—has been reported as having prognostic value regarding the potential for recovery of macular edema with treatment.<sup>19</sup> A new application of OCT, 3-dimensional OCT, has been reported to have higher sensitivity than FA for diagnosis of cystoid macular edema in the context of retinal diseases.<sup>20</sup> The research community is widely adopting the use of OCT imaging in clinical studies, due to high reproducibility and the potential for quantitative outcome variables which is statistically advantageous in some instances. Our observation that OCT is more often successful than FA in imaging the macula in eyes with uveitis (91% vs 77% respectively) is a further advantage of this approach for research studies and clinical care. These considerations would seem to support the use of OCT as an initial test when an eye is suspected of having macular edema, unless fluorescein angiography was specifically indicated to evaluate uveitis (e.g., for suspected vasculitis, vascular closure, neovascularization or optic nerve leakage, or for evaluation of a white dot syndrome).

However, in this large group of eyes with uveitis, OCT missed a substantial number of cases with macular leakage. Among the cases where OCT did not demonstrate thickening, macular leakage was associated with several-fold greater odds of diminished visual acuity, indicating that such macular leakage often may be of clinical importance. Conversely, a substantial number of cases of macular thickening also were missed by fluorescein angiography, and such thickening also was associated with reduced visual acuity. Thus, both FA and OCT yielded clinically important information in a large minority of cases when the other test was negative. In situations where a positive result on the second test would affect

treatment decisions, both tests may be warranted. However, if the first test is positive and provides sufficient grounds to initiate treatment, the second test likely is unnecessary. Longitudinal study would be valuable to clarify the relationship of these pathologies in relation to visual outcomes, to better clarify their importance and interrelationships.

We evaluated whether the presence of some other associated factor would render a second test unnecessary, with a notably small yield. While several factors were predictive of either increased risk of fluorescein leakage in cases without macular thickening per OCT, or of macular thickening in cases without fluorescein leakage per FA, the absence of these factors was not associated with sufficiently low probability of macular leakage to effectively rule out the presence of macular leakage. The only possible exception was that a very small number of cases of macular thickening were present in phakic, noncataractous eyes free of macular leakage, which may represent a group in which OCT would be redundant following FA. Further experience would be valuable to determine whether this finding in fact mitigates the need for an OCT following a negative FA (assuming detection of macular thickening would alter treatment).

Regarding clinical diagnosis of macular edema, an expert consensus group previously concluded that clinically definite macular edema by biomicroscopy is an adequately reliable indicator of the presence of macular edema, if diagnosis based on ancillary testing is not available.<sup>8</sup> However, our results, based on biomicroscopic evaluation by leading uveitis experts, found that clinicians made both positive and negative errors in a substantial proportion of cases. Furthermore, the MUST Trial protocol did not forbid clinicians from viewing OCT and FA results before recording the results of biomicroscopy, and some may have done so, which could have biased results of clinical macular edema grading to be more favorable than they would have been otherwise. An evaluation of detection of foveal macular edema in diabetics by biomicroscopy vs OCT also has demonstrated poor sensitivity for detection of macular thickening between 201–300  $\mu\text{m}$ , although agreement was favorable for greater levels of thickening.<sup>20</sup> Based on these considerations, evaluation with an ancillary test would seem justified in settings where the presence of macular edema is suspected, regardless of biomicroscopic findings, although biomicroscopic findings suggesting macular edema make it more likely that positive findings will be identified. Ancillary testing may be especially useful to identify non-cystic thickening of the macula (because cystic changes are more likely to be clinically identifiable), when the ocular media are poor (particularly with OCT), and when it is important to monitor changes in macular status over time. Prior publications which have relied upon clinical diagnosis of macular edema are not necessarily invalidated by these observations, but should be interpreted with the recognition that macular edema outcomes may have been misclassified in both directions to some extent, which tends to reduce the strength of observed associations rather than producing spurious associations.

Limitations of this study include its cross-sectional nature, and the use of time-domain OCT rather than spectral domain OCT, which was introduced into practice after the MUST Trial was initiated. However, cross-sectional observations correspond well to the situation patients and clinicians face in clinical practice, where a decision regarding treatment must be made before follow-up imaging is available. Time-domain OCT, while providing lower resolution images than spectral domain OCT and therefore sometimes missing smaller cysts, nevertheless provides adequate resolution for measuring central macular thickening, the major finding of interest here. Our previous work has demonstrated that thickening is much more predictive of visual loss than cysts,<sup>6</sup> and small cysts are unlikely to have as much impact as large ones detectable by time-domain OCT. The protocol explicitly controlled artifacts known to potentially bias measurement of macular thickness, such as eccentric centering, reducing the likelihood that our results have a meaningful degree of measurement



bias. Results of the study would be applicable to non-infectious uveitis, given that infectious uveitis was not studied. Strengths of the study include standardized, simultaneous imaging by OCT and FA of a large cohort of eyes with a high prevalence of macular edema, providing favorable statistical power for addressing questions of clinical importance. OCT and FA studies were graded objectively by masked graders in a Reading Center environment subjected to ongoing quality control.

In summary, agreement between central macular thickness per OCT imaging and macular leakage by FA is imperfect ( $\kappa=0.44$ ), likely because the two tests measure different but related aspects of macular pathology, and hence may give complementary information. Given the observed superiority of OCT in obtaining gradable images, along with its lower cost and non-invasive nature, in most cases OCT seems the most appropriate first test to evaluate the macula, unless some other specific indication for FA exists. However, when OCT is negative and findings of macular leakage would be clinically important, FA is likely to provide valuable additional information if the ocular media permit it. Likewise, when FA is performed initially and is negative, it seems reasonable to obtain a follow-up OCT in situations when detection of macular thickening would be clinically relevant. Biomicroscopy misdiagnosed the presence or absence of macular edema sufficiently often that ancillary testing with OCT and/or FA seems to be indicated whenever a reasonable probability of potentially treatable macular edema exists.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

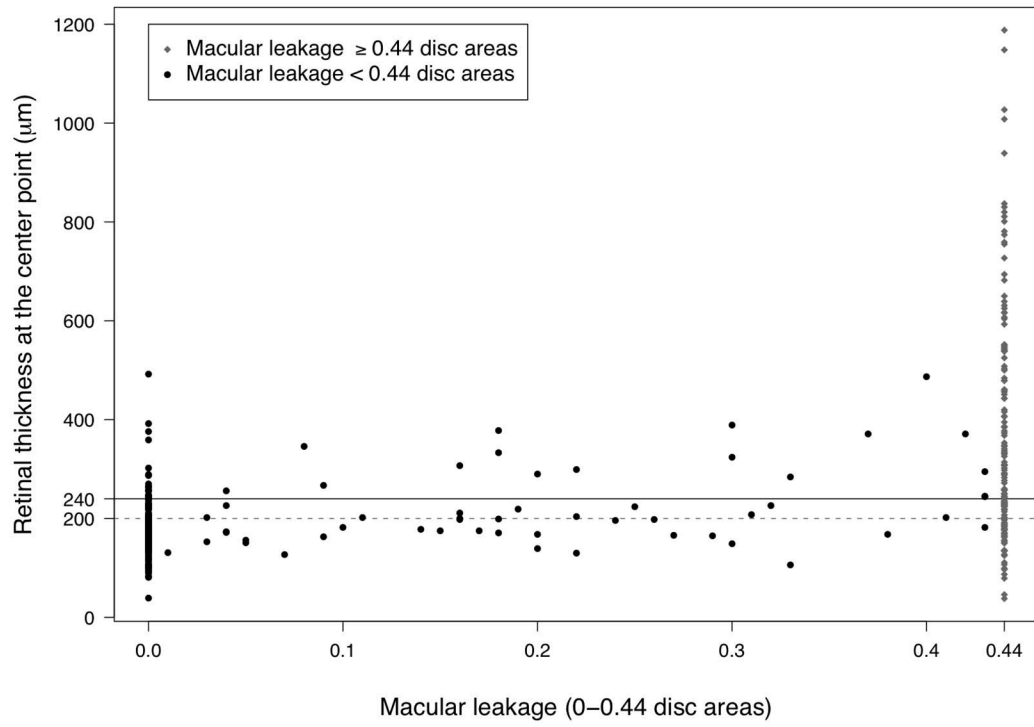
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**Figure 1.** Distribution between retinal thickness at the center point per optical coherence tomography in  $\mu\text{m}$  vs. macular leakage in disc areas per fluorescein angiography

Table 1

Relationship between center point macular thickness, measured by OCT, central macular leakage measured by fluorescein angiography, and clinical diagnosis of macular edema via biomicroscopy

Characteristic	Eyes N (%)	MT, $\mu$ m Median (25th to 75th percentile)	P-value*	MT Missing N (%)
<b>Alternative approach to macular edema diagnosis</b>				
<b>Fluorescein Angiography</b>				
No ML	167 (46%)	173 (148 to 200)	<0.0001	3 (50%)
0<ML<0.44 DA	54 (15%)	201 (168 to 267)		
ML>0.44 DA	142 (39%)	300 (198 to 503)		3 (50%)
Cannot assess	54	238 (179 to 334)		26
Missing	19	186 (144 to 237)		11
<b>Clinical Examination</b>				
No Biomicroscopic ME	225 (56%)	179 (152 to 214)	<0.0001	7 (58%)
Borderline/Equivocal Biomicroscopic ME	47 (12%)	200 (168 to 265)		2 (17%)
Biomicroscopic ME present	131 (33%)	307 (205 to 518)		3 (25%)
Cannot assess	27	213 (180 to 444)		13
Missing	6	369 (173 to 737)		18

N = number of eyes; MT = retinal thickness at the center point of the macula; ML=leakage of fluorescein throughout the central 0.44 disk areas in the macula; OCT=Stratus-3 Optical Coherence Tomography; ME = macular edema; DA = disc areas.

\* P-values assess the association between log (MT) on ME and cyst variables adjusting for within-person, between-eye correlation. The log transformation is used to adjust for skewness.

**Table 3**

Comparison of the risk factors for having leakage among eyes without macular thickening.\*

Characteristic	No Macular Leakage (N = 183)	Macular Leakage (N = 56)	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
Age 55 or greater, N (%)				0.022		
No	151 (81%)	36 (19%)			2.42 (1.13, 5.17)	
Yes	32 (62%)	20 (38%)				
Race, N (%)				0.62		
Caucasian	103 (75%)	34 (25%)			0.84 (0.42, 1.67)	
Non-caucasian	80 (78%)	22 (22%)				
Any systemic disease, N (%)				0.22		
No	139 (79%)	37 (21%)			1.56 (0.76, 3.21)	
Yes	44 (70%)	19 (30%)				
Visual acuity, N (%)				< 0.0001		0.0002
20/40 or better	140 (86%)	22 (14%)			4.45 (2.42, 8.17)	
Worse than 20/40	42 (55%)	34 (45%)				
Missing	1 (100%)					
Lens status, N (%)				0.014		
No cataract	66 (88%)	9 (12%)			3.01 (1.25, 7.24)	
Cataract or Aphakic/Pseudophakic	117 (71%)	47 (29%)				
Current activity, N (%)				0.28		
No	52 (80%)	13 (20%)			1.44 (0.74, 2.78)	
Yes	131 (75%)	43 (25%)				
Anterior chamber cells, N (%)				0.93		
No cells present	104 (76%)	33 (24%)			0.97 (0.5, 1.86)	
Cells present	79 (77%)	23 (23%)				
Vitreous cells, N (%)				0.75		
No cells present	37 (79%)	10 (21%)			1.16 (0.46, 2.90)	
Cells present	146 (77%)	44 (23%)				
Missing		2 (100%)				
Vitreous haze, N (%)				0.12		
0	77 (82%)	17 (18%)			1.68 (0.87, 3.26)	

Characteristic	No Macular Leakage (N = 183)	Macular Leakage (N = 56)	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
I+	105 (73%)	38 (27%)				
Missing	1 (50%)	1 (50%)				
Clinical examination, N (%)						
No macular edema	159 (82%)	34 (18%)				
Macular edema	22 (56%)	17 (44%)	3.81 (1.73, 8.38)	0.0009	2.99 (1.33, 6.69)	0.0076
Missing	2 (29%)	5 (71%)				
OCT cystoid spaces, N (%)						
No	148 (77%)	43 (23%)				
Yes	35 (73%)	13 (27%)	1.48 (0.72, 3.02)	0.29		

\* N=number of eyes; OCT=Stratus 3 Optical Coherence Tomography; CI=Confidence Interval

Table 4

Evaluation of risk factors for macular thickening in eyes with uveitis and no macular leakage.\*

Characteristic	No Macular Thickening (N = 183)	Macular Thickening (N = 38)	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
Age 55 or greater, N (%)			3.83 (1.74, 8.41)	0.0008	2.35 (1.03, 5.36)	0.042
No	151 (88%)	21 (12%)				
Yes	32 (65%)	17 (35%)				
Race, N (%)			2.94 (1.25, 7.14)	0.012		
Non-caucasian	80 (91%)	8 (9%)				
Caucasian	103 (77%)	30 (23%)				
Any systemic disease, N (%)			0.94 (0.39, 2.25)	0.89		
No	139 (83%)	29 (17%)				
Yes	44 (83%)	9 (17%)				
Visual acuity, N (%)			2.81 (1.36, 5.79)	0.0052	2.02 (0.93, 4.34)	0.072
20/40 or better	140 (88%)	20 (13%)				
Worse than 20/40	42 (70%)	18 (30%)				
Missing	1 (100%)					
Lens status, N (%)			6.89 (2.11, 22.5)	0.0013	4.12 (1.19, 14.2)	0.025
No cataract	66 (96%)	3 (4%)				
Cataract or Aphakic/Pseudophak	117 (77%)	35 (23%)				
Current activity, N (%)			1.01 (0.45, 2.23)	0.98		
No	52 (83%)	11 (17%)				
Yes	131 (83%)	27 (17%)				
Anterior chamber cells, N(%)			0.92 (0.43, 1.94)	0.82		
No cells present	104 (82%)	23 (18%)				
Cells present	79 (84%)	15 (16%)				
Vitreous cells, N (%)			0.93 (0.40, 2.15)	0.87		
No cells present	37 (82%)	8 (18%)				
Cells present	146 (83%)	30 (17%)				
Vitreous haze, N (%)			0.87 (0.41, 1.83)	0.72		
0	77 (81%)	18 (19%)				
1+	105 (84%)	20 (16%)				

Characteristic	No Macular Thickening (N = 183)	Macular Thickening (N = 38)	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
Missing	1 (100%)					
Clinical examination, N (%)						
No macular edema	159 (87%)	23 (13%)	4.87 (2.14, 11.1)	0.0002		
Macular edema	22 (59%)	15 (41%)				
Missing	2 (100%)					
FA cystoid changes, N (%)						
No	172 (86%)	29 (14%)	4.74 (1.79, 12.5)	0.0017	3.63 (1.43, 9.18)	0.0065
Yes	11 (55%)	9 (45%)				

\* N=number of eyes; FA=Fluorescein Angiography; CI=Confidence Interval