Author's response to reviews

Title: Automated analysis of digital confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy fundus autofluorescence images of geographic atrophy in advanced age-related macular degeneration

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Version: 2  Date: 8 December 2004

Dear editor,

we submit a newer version of our paper with linguistic corrected passages for better understanding. Please forward the new paper to the reviewers.

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old cover letter:

Dear editor,

we would like to submit our paper

Automated analysis of digital confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy fundus autofluorescence images of geographic atrophy in advanced age-related macular degeneration

for publication in BMC ophthalmology.

Our contribution presents an improved approach to the measurement of areas of geographic atrophies in patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). We present a software and assess the quality of the proposed measurement process in a blinded reader study.

The need of improved phenotyping, the correct and consistent long-time follow up of a patient's disease are prerequisites for the discovery of prognostic factors and the implementation of needed clinical trials.

AMD has become the most common cause of legal blindness in industrialized nations beyond 50 years of age. There are big efforts in understanding the mechanisms of progression and on detecting risk factors correlating with the development of an AMD. To support measuring relevant study parameters with less bias through the investigator standardized technical methods are used. It is our goal to present a tool which improves the quality, the reproducibility and objectivity of an area measurement while simultaneously speeding up the reading process.

Our article shows interesting interfaces, problems and advanced fields of collaboration between ophthalmology, informatics and medical statistics.