Author's response to reviews

Title: Noninvasive vascular imaging of ruptured retinal arterial macroaneurysms by Doppler optical coherence tomography

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Yannis Paulus

We thank the reviewers and editor for their careful consideration, and we have revised the text accordingly. Please find our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments below.

Reviewer’s comment 1
The methods are appropriate. However, although the authors cite two references about "A detailed description of the prototype Doppler OCT system“ that „has been previously reported” (Methods, second paragraph), a more detailed description with mentioning the brands of used devices would be needed, especially given the financial disclosures of the authors.

Answer
Our OCT system is a custom-made prototype built by the Computational Optic Group at the University of Tsukuba. This OCT system is not a commercial in purpose. To clarify about it, we added a following description in Methods.

Page 5, line 7 " The Doppler OCT system used in this study was a custom-made prototype built by the Computational Optic Group at the University of Tsukuba. [11,16]. This Doppler OCT was based on a swept-source technology, and operated at an axial scan speed of 100,000 A-scans/s, using a swept-source laser at a central wavelength of 1060 nm. The probing beam power was set at 1.85 mW, which is lower than the American National Standards Institute safety limit."

We have the following financial disclosures.
Page 9 " Competing interests: Masahiro Miura received financial support from Santen and Alcon. Young-Joo Hong and Yoshiaki Yasuno received financial support from Tomey and Topcon."

Reviewer’s comment 2
This is a very interesting manuscript by leaders in the field. I am just unclear if the authors have received EC approval for these measurements. Given that a prototype system is used for the measurements I think this is required.

Answer
Thank you for your important comments. We added a following description in Methods.

Page 5, line 21 " This study was performed according to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki, and was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of the University of Tsukuba and Tokyo Medical University. Informed consent for the study was obtained from all participants."