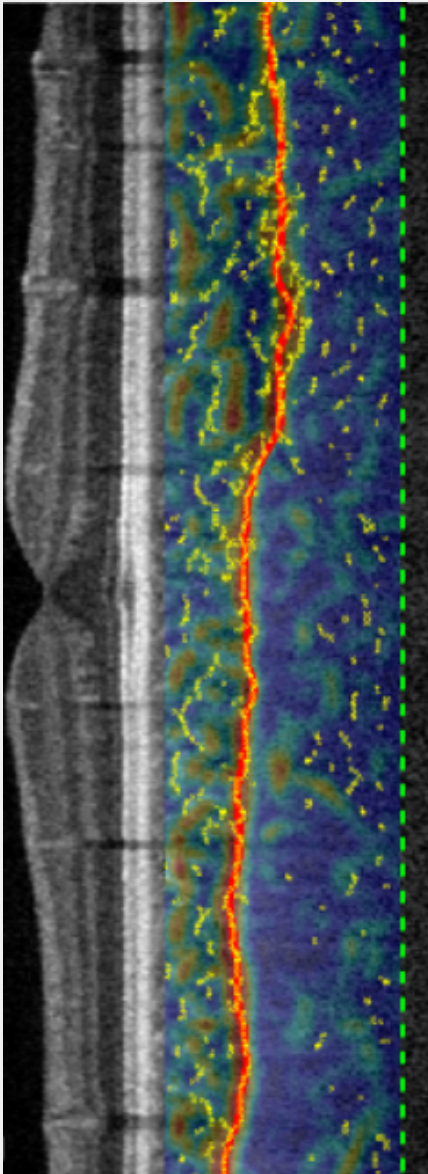




Non-Invasive Method for Measuring Ocular Rigidity



Background

The development of non-invasive methods to estimate ocular rigidity will have profound implications for research into ocular diseases. Recent evidence suggests that ocular biomechanics may play a major role in glaucoma pathogenesis. Additionally, several investigations into age-related macular degeneration have led to both mechanical and ischemic theories of pathophysiology related to ocular rigidity but it remains unknown as to whether changing rigidity plays a role in the pathophysiology of the disease. Reduced scleral rigidity is also an important feature of pathological myopia.

Technology

Pr. Santiago Costantino and Dr Mark Lesk from *Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont* have developed a novel method and software for measuring ocular rigidity. Their non-invasive method is based on novel real-time imaging methods to assess ocular elasticity and tissue deformation. Volumetric changes of the eye due to choroidal pulsations is determined by automated choroid segmentation in sequential FD-OCT images which, in combination with intraocular pressure measurements and biometry, allow the first non-invasive and direct calculation of ocular rigidity. A 3 years clinical study with glaucoma patients is currently ongoing.

Application

This novel non-invasive approach to measure choroidal blood flow and ocular rigidity is of seminal importance to further understand key biomechanical determinants of ocular diseases. Ocular rigidity measurement is expected to become a clinically valuable tool for diagnostic and prognostic of some ocular diseases such as glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and myopia.

Competitive Advantages

- Non-invasive method
- Real-time measurement
- Robust automated choroid segmentation
- Potential for diagnostic as well as prognostic of ocular diseases
- Ongoing clinical study with glaucoma patients
- Currently no commercially available method to non-invasively measure ocular rigidity

Patent

US Provisional Patent Application (Q2/2014)

Next Steps

Clinical study is ongoing, Univalor is seeking partners for collaboration and commercialisation of the technology

Contact

Stéphanie Larose, PhD
Project Manager, Business Development
Life Sciences
T. 514.340.3243 ext. 4249
stephanie.larose@univalor.ca

Santiago Costantino, PhD
Mark Lesk, MD
Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont
santiago.costantino@umontreal.ca
lesk@videotron.ca