



Invitation to the ophthalmological online symposium

Advanced macular course – and you thought you knew OCT?

Complex and new biomarkers that really help in the everyday diagnosis and treatment of macular diseases

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Dear colleague,

Do you think you already know everything about macular imaging? Do you feel

confident in applying OCT in everyday life? Well, your expertise is about to be challenged in this course.

We are pleased to invite you to our Sulzbach Advanced Macular Course. This year's course will include an advanced training module for experts who have mastered the standard, day-to-day imaging of macular diseases, but righteously assume that modern diagnostics allow for much more complex possibilities.

This macula course skips all the basics of OCT and angiography. We assume you are not a beginner and quite proficient in macular imaging. Instead, we focus on complex and newly researched biomarkers in modern imaging. Using these biomarkers, we experienced users can extract far more information from our imaging to help us to answer tricky questions and deliver the correct diagnosis. We provide tips and tricks that cannot be found in books or basic OCT courses.

We have prepared exciting and complex cases for you, where the solution to the problem is not immediately obvious but becomes clear with the help of these newly learned biomarkers.

To discuss these topics, renowned international experts will lend their expertise and offer some tools so that we do not remain at a loss in everyday clinical practice when an unclear situation is encountered during OCT. What do incidentally diagnosed macular cysts mean? Why are drusen not made equal? Which biomarkers do we look at when monitoring diabetics? What is the benefit of an OCT of the choroid? Which structures in the OCT correlate with visual acuity, and which, surprisingly, do not? These are just a few of the questions we will answer.

Using clinical examples in modern imaging modalities, short presentations will cover rare and sometimes curious cases whose interpretation is not always straightforward. We will give you some pointers on what you should look out for when treating patients with the latest medications and update you on the extent to which artificial intelligence has already found its way into modern patient care.

We are looking forward to an exciting day of chatting away with a highly competent panel of international experts. The conversation will leave plenty of room for open discussion, where you can join in the guessing and debating.

With best regards,

Prof. Dr. med. Peter Szurman

Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Boris Stanzel

Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Philipp Roberts, PhD

Speakers



Priv. Doz. Dr. Thomas Ach

Chief Senior Consultant and Deputy Clinic Director of the University Eye Hospital Bonn, Germany



Prof. Dr. Jay Chhablani

Senior Consultant Medical Retina and Vitreoretinal Surgery, Director of Clinical Research at the UPMC Vision Institute University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, USA



Dr. med. Anna Theresa Lorenz

Resident, Sulzbach Eye Clinic, Knappschaftsklinikum Saar, Germany



Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Marion Munk

Specialist in Ophthalmology FMH - FEBO, Head Physician Gutblick Research, Bern, Switzerland

**Prof. Dr. Barbara Parolini**

Head of Vitreoretinal Surgery Department Eyecare Clinic, Brescia, Italy

**Assoc.-Prof. Priv.-Doz. Dr. Andreas Pollreisz**

Head of Clinic for Diabetic Retinopathy, Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

**Prof. Dr. Siegfried Priglinger**

Director of the University Eye Clinic of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany

**Priv. Doz. Dr. Philipp Roberts, PhD**

Senior Consultant and Head of Cornea Section, Sulzbach Eye Clinic, Knappschaftsklinikum Saar, Germany

**Prof. Dr. Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth**

Head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria

**Priv. Doz. Dr. Boris Stanzel**

Head of the Macula Center Section, Head of the Clinical Study Center, Sulzbach Eye Clinic, Knappschaftsklinikum Saar, KHERI Research Center, Germany

**Prof. Dr. med. Peter Szurman**

Director of the Sulzbach Eye Clinic, Knappschaftsklinikum Saar, KHERI Research Institute, Germany

**Prof. Dr. Sandrine Zweifel, PhD**

Head Physician and Deputy Clinic Director of the Eye Clinic of the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

Program

10 a.m.

Greeting

10.10 a.m.

Myopia on the rise – what we pay attention to in OCT

Prof. Dr. Barbara Parolini (Brescia, Italy)

Myopia is one of the most common ophthalmic diagnoses and is associated with a number of retinal complications that also show typical findings on OCT. But what exactly do we look for in OCT, and how do these biomarkers help us to diagnose and choose the right treatment?

10.25 a.m.

The outer retinal layers in OCT – These biomarkers are prognostically important

Prof. Dr. Peter Szurman (Sulzbach, Germany)

The outer retinal layers are clearly visible on OCT and also show specific changes depending on the disease. Above all, they are good prognostic biomarkers for visual acuity. But what exactly is the ellipsoid zone, and why is it so useful in everyday clinical practice?

10.40 a.m.

Lamellar and full-thickness macular holes – prognostication using OCT biomarkers

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Priglinger (Munich, Germany)

Macular holes have different causes and also differ in the prognosis of surgical intervention. In fact, several new OCT-based classifications help us to predict both the possible surgical success and visual acuity to be achieved. Biomarkers of the outer retinal layers are key predictors.

10.55 a.m.

Interpreting submacular pigment epithelial detachment

Prof. Dr. Sandrine Zweifel, PhD (Zürich, Switzerland)

Pathological processes below the RPE can only be visualized with multimodal imaging, particularly OCTA. Proper biomarkers help us here: Does a double-layer sign in OCT oppose anti-VEGF treatment in chorioretinopathia centralis serosa

and is the vitelliform lesion in fact a non-exudative MNV-1? We present spectacular and instructive cases.

11.10 a.m.

There are drusen on OCT, so it's AMD, right?

Priv. Doz. Dr. Thomas Ach (Bonn, Germany)

Irregularities of the retinal pigment epithelium come in many shapes and sizes and are by no means only found in age-related macular degeneration. How do we unmask different types of AMD mimicry? How do we distinguish cuticular, refractile, and pachydrusen? And why are reticular pseudodrusen not drusen? The key to understanding different types of drusen lies in OCT.

11.25 a.m.

Atrophy of the outer retina – new classification and new insights

Priv. Doz. Dr. Boris Stanzel (Sulzbach, Germany)

Geographic atrophy as a late stage of dry age-related macular degeneration has varying degrees of severity. With the recent introduction of intravitreal therapy options, a more precise understanding is essential. The new international classification of atrophy provides clarity.

11.40 a.m.

OCT of the choroid – What's the point? A big mystery to this day

Prof. Dr. Jay Chhablani (Pittsburgh, USA)

A wide variety of changes can be seen not only in the retina but also the choroid. Depending on the context, choroidal lesions can have a completely different meaning and be of great diagnostic importance. In this lecture, you will learn which etiologies should be considered and when indocyanine green angiography or merely structural en-face OCT is required.

11.55 a.m. – 12.10 p.m. **Rapid Fire for the industry**

12.10 – 12.20 p.m. **Break**

12.20 p.m.

Intraretinal cysts are not the same

Priv. Doz. Dr. Philipp Roberts, PhD (Sulzbach, Germany)

From incidental findings in asymptomatic patients to pronounced retinal swelling in vein occlusion or uveitis, to atrophic cysts in macular degeneration, the causes are numerous. How can they be differentiated and treated?

12.35 p.m.

Biomarkers for therapeutic monitoring in macular disease

Prof. Dr. Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth (Vienna, Austria)

Retinal fluid is the biomarker relevant for anti-VEGF therapy. In contrast to central retinal thickness (CRT), accurate fluid volumes by compartment are more efficient and realistic indicators. In geographic atrophy (GA), the relevant biomarkers are subclinical such as ellipsoid zone (EZ) loss representing disease activity and therapeutic response at the level of the photoreceptors. AI-based OCT analyses allow to precisely, objectively visualize and quantify therapeutic biomarkers in a fully automated manner.

12.50 p.m.

What you should look out for in OCT in diabetics

Dr. med. Anna Theresa Lorenz (Sulzbach, Germany)

In addition to cystoid macular edema, many other biomarkers appear in OCT imaging in diabetic retinopathy. How much edema can be reversed without permanent damage, and does it really make sense to operate on every epiretinal membrane?

1.05 p.m.

Quantitative OCT biomarkers in diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema – What can they tell us?

Assoc.-Prof. Priv.-Doz. Dr. Andreas Pollreisz (Vienna, Austria)

Artificial intelligence is on the rise and is already revolutionizing ophthalmology. It can be used to automatically detect even the smallest retinal changes and enables large amounts of data to be analyzed quickly. What have we learned in the first few years of use?

1.20 p.m.

The secret of inner retinal thinning: the underestimated biomarker

Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Marion Munk (Bern, Switzerland)

Atrophy of the inner retinal layers is often associated with neurodegenerative diseases. However, uveitis and glaucoma also lead to inner retinal atrophy. We

provide tips for differentiating the cause and further treatment.

1.35 – 1.45 p.m.

Summary and closing remarks

Head of scientific program:

Prof. Dr. med. Peter Szurman

Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Boris Stanzel

Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Philipp Roberts, PhD

Training points:

The training is certified by the Medical Association with 6 training points.

Registration for the online seminar

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Registration via

sulzbach.congresse.de

or

www.augenklinik-sulzbach.de/Fortbildung

Contact person for queries

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Conference fees

The event is free of charge

CME points

The training is certified by the Medical Association with 6 training points.

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