



OCT, OCT-A, Ultra-widefield and medical retina
20-21 November 2023, Lugano (Switzerland)

Scientific coordinators: Giuseppe Querques and Riccardo Sacconi
Scientific director: Mario Romano

SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE:

In the past decades, we have observed a dramatic increase in the number of people affected by medical retinal diseases worldwide. On the other hand, thanks to the introduction in the clinical practice of new treatments (i.e. anti-VEGF injections) and new diagnostic devices (i.e. optical coherence tomography) we improved the management and prognosis of patients affected by medical retina diseases. To achieve better patient management, we will need to work to better implement our knowledge of the diagnosis and treatments of these diseases.

Recently several clinical aspects of retinal diseases have been elucidated, thanks to new high-resolution multimodal imaging modalities. Namely, the introduction of high-resolution optical coherence tomography (OCT), OCT-angiography (OCT-A), and ultra-widefield imaging as a diagnostic tool have allowed us to investigate the retinal and choroidal vascular alterations of ophthalmic diseases in a non-invasive way. The identification of new imaging biomarkers is of paramount importance in the early diagnosis and in the understanding of mechanisms behind the pathophysiology and therapies of retinal diseases.

On the other hand, recently, new anti-VEGF molecules are available for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME). Understanding the mechanisms of action of these new molecules and their use in clinical practice is of paramount relevance in order to achieve the best management of patients.

In this course, we would like to clarify the different aspects of new therapies and imaging tools available in the clinical management of patients affected by medical retina disease. We hope to compile the latest research on, and clinical applications of, this new and important topic.

20 November 2023 – Focus on nAMD management

09:00–09:15	Registration and welcoming	All
09:15 -09:45	Neovascular AMD: from the pathogenesis to the classification of a multifactorial disease	Giuseppe Querques
09:45 -10:15	“Reactive” or “Proactive” treatment regimen: what we have learned after 13 years of anti-VEGF treatment	Usha Chakravarthy
10:15 -10:30	Which are today the parameters for disease activity assessment?	Gabriela Grimaldi

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10:30–10:45	Discussion	All
10:45 -11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15-11:30	Unmet needs with the first generation of anti-VEGF drugs	Martin Zinkernagel
11:30-12:00	Beyond the first generation of anti-VEGF in the nAMD treatment, different strategies to address treatment burden	Riccardo Sacconi
12:00-12.15	Management of possible adverse events related to anti-VEGF injections	Martin Zinkernagel
12:15–13:00	Discussion	All
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00–14:45	Clinical cases of nAMD: discussion about management (when to switch, when to extend, when to stop)	Giuseppe Querques Gabriela Grimaldi
14:45–15:15	Fundamentals of OCTA technology (historical background, technical principles, artifacts, and limitations)	Riccardo Sacconi
15:15-15:45	Tips and tricks for OCT-A application in the clinical practice	Usha Chakravarthy
15:45–16:00	Discussion	All
16:00-16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:15-17:00	Hands-on practice on OCTA devices / Clinical cases	Martin Zinkernagel
17:00-17:45	Clinical cases / Hands-on practice on OCTA devices	Gabriela Grimaldi
17:45-18:15	Discussion and Closing remarks	All

21 November 2023 - Focus on DME management

09:00–09:30	Diabetic retinopathy: from the pathogenesis to the classification of a multifactorial disease	Marco Lupidi
09:30–10:15	Ultrawide field imaging in the diabetic retinopathy: FA vs OCT-A	Mario Romano
10:15–10:45	Efficacy and limitations of “first generation” of anti-VEGF in the DME treatment: real-life experience	Reinier O. Schlingemann
10:45–11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00–11:30	New targets and unmet needs in the management of DME	Marco Lupidi
11:30-12:00	Beyond the first generation of anti-VEGF in the DME treatment, different strategies to address treatment burden	Reinier O. Schlingemann
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Which is the role of corticosteroids in this “new era” of anti-</i>	<i>Anat Loewenstein</i>

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	<i>VEGF?</i>	<i>(remote)</i>
12:30–13:00	Discussion	All
13:00–14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00–14:45	The surgical option for the management of DME: rationale, timing, and results	Mario Romano
14:45–15:45	Clinical cases of DME: discussion about management (when to switch, when to extend, when to stop)	Marco Lupidi Mario Romano Reinier O. Schlingemann
15:45–16:15	Discussion and closing remarks	All

STATEMENT:

The participants are all informed that:

- *during practical sessions will be used specific medical devices.*
- *there is a variety of different similar products that participants can use beyond the one provided at the even*

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