



## Dr Sean Every

Ophthalmologist and Vitreoretinal Surgeon  
Southern Eye Specialists  
Christchurch



## Dr Jo-Anne Pon

Consultant Ophthalmologist and Oculoplastic Surgeon  
Southern Eye Specialists  
Christchurch



## Dr John Rawstron

Ophthalmologist  
Southern Eye Specialists  
Christchurch Hospital  
Christchurch

Sunday, August 11, 2019

(Room 4)

8:30 - 9:25 WS #150: Ophthalmology Update

9:35 - 10:30 WS #160: Ophthalmology Update (Repeated)



**Southern Eye Specialists**

# Systemic Vascular Disease and the Retina

**Sean Every**

Ophthalmologist and Vitreoretinal Surgeon

No financial disclosures

THE EYES ARE THE WINDOW TO  
THE SOUL

THE EYES ARE THE WINDOW TO  
THE VASCULAR SYSTEM

# Outline:

1. Diabetic Retinopathy
2. Retinal Vein Occlusion
3. Carotid Artery Disease
4. Systemic vasculitis
5. Hypertension

# Diabetes mellitus: epidemiology

- The leading cause of blindness in working age adults
- Prevalence of DM 6% of the total NZ population
  - 240,000 diagnosed
  - 100,000 undiagnosed
- 1/3 diabetics will have diabetic retinopathy
  - 10% sight threatening

## **Risk factors for retinopathy:**

- Duration of diabetes
- Type 1 diabetes
- Poor HbA1c
- Hypertension
- Pregnancy
- Dyslipidaemia

# Diabetic Retinopathy: Pathogenesis

Damage to capillary wall



Capillary dropout



Microvasculature occlusion and leakage



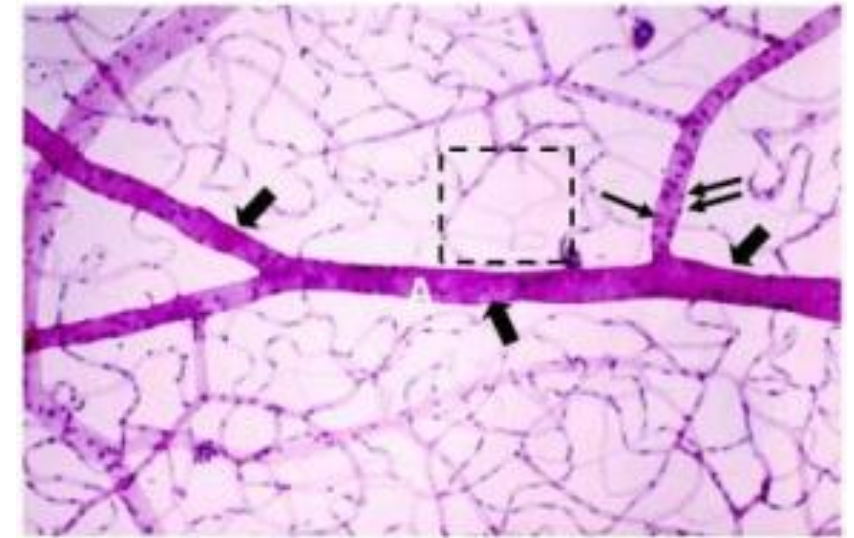
Ischaemia and production of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) and inflammatory mediators



Retinal and optic disc neovascularisation

Haemorrhage

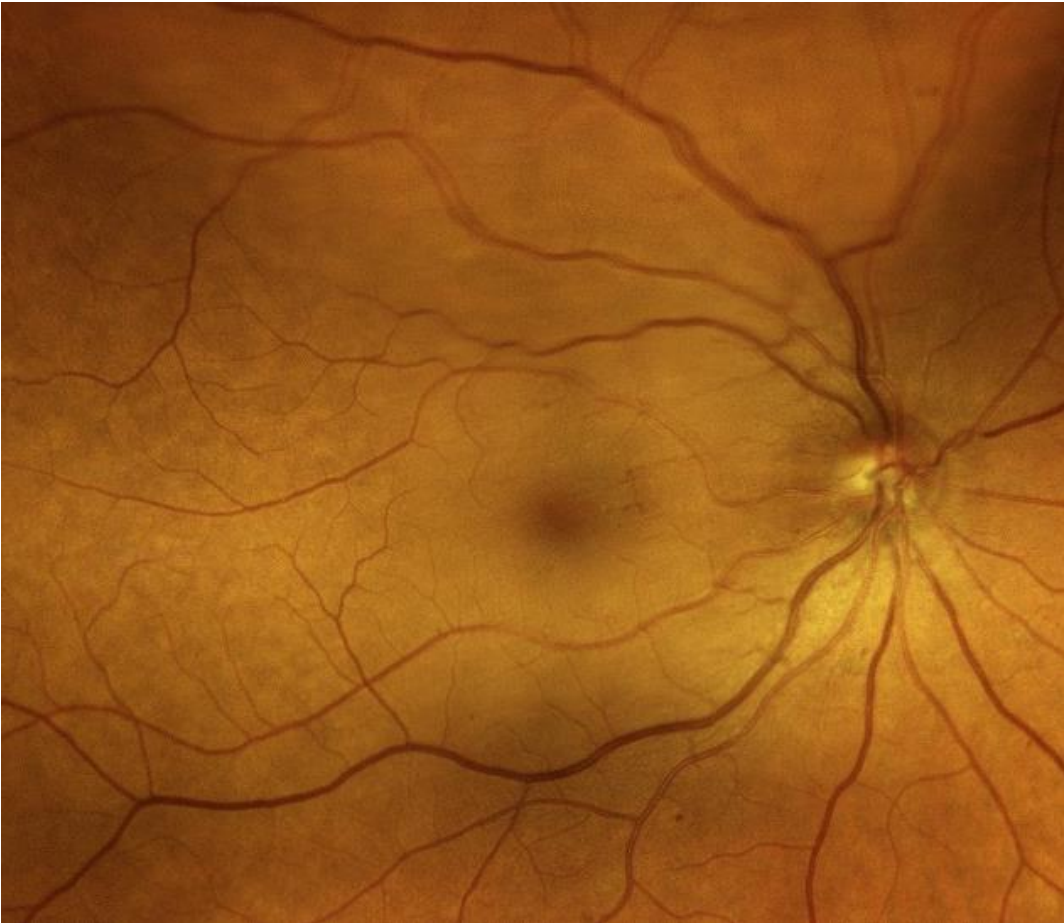
Fibrosis and retinal detachments



# Diabetic Maculopathy

67y F recently diagnosed; poor control

**6/6**



**6/9.5**



# Fluorescein angiography left eye

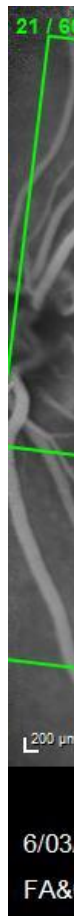
**Early (1 minute)**



**Late (14 minutes)**

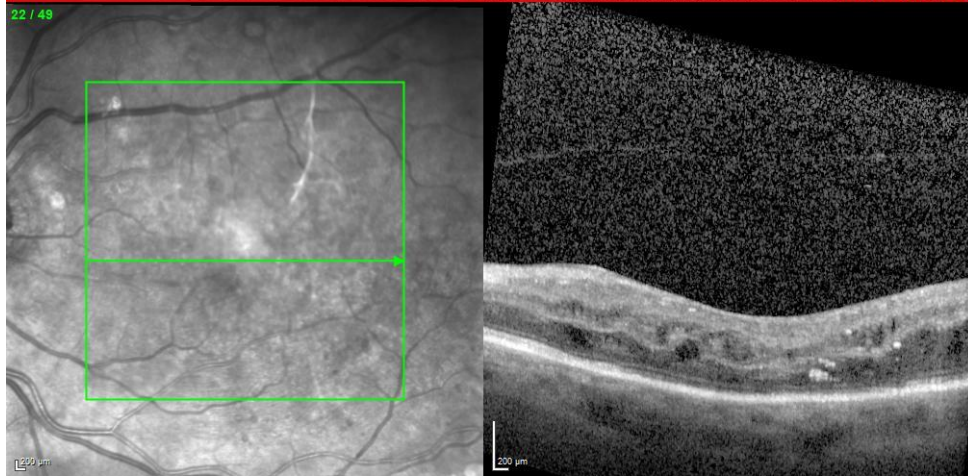
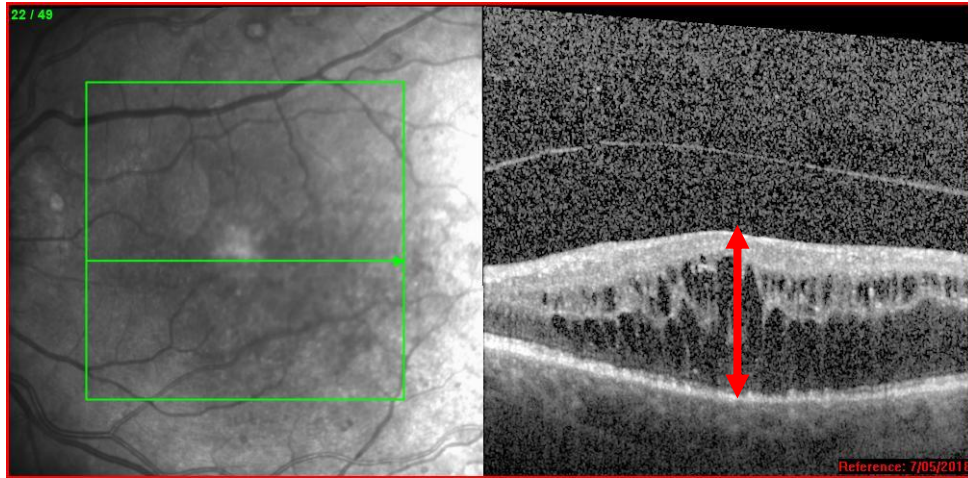


Co



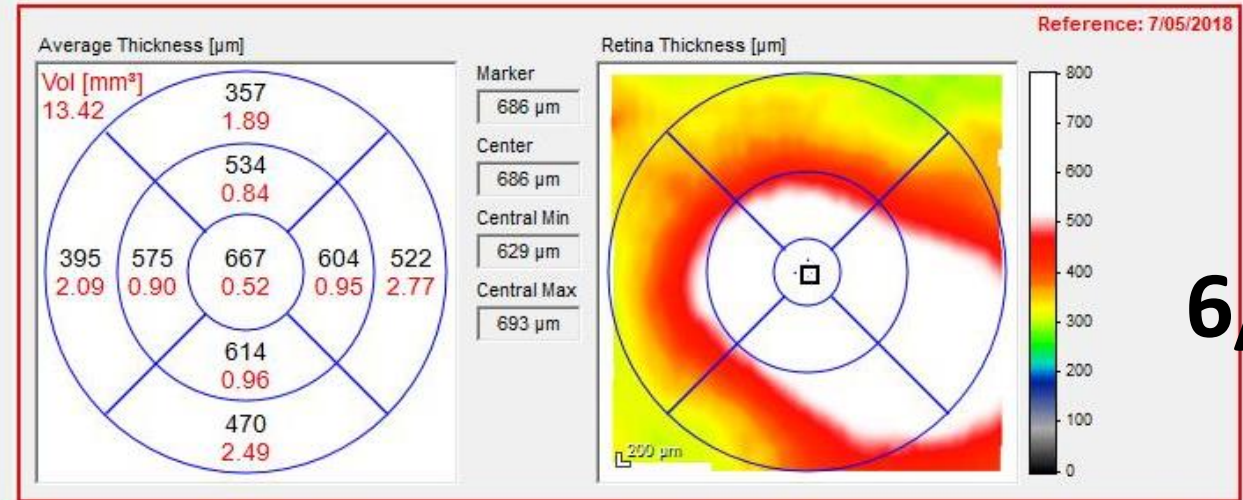
# 76 yr M

long history poor control, likes lollies, massive silent MI, BKA, smoker  
Rx Ozurdex implant

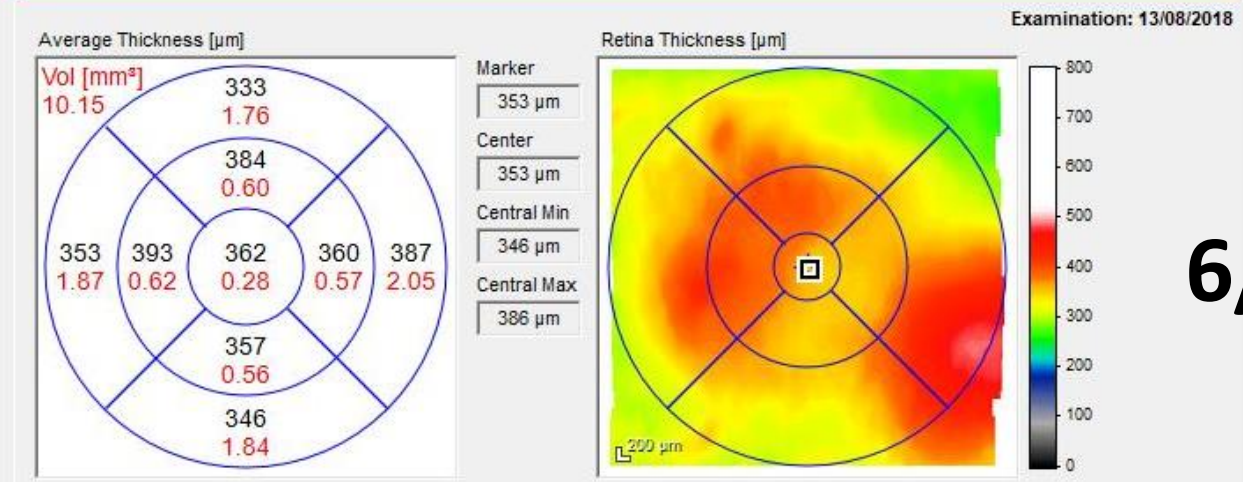


13/08/2018, OS  
IR&OCT 30° ART [HS] ART(16) Q: 21

HEIDELBERG  
engineering



6/60



6/30

# Diabetic maculopathy: Rx options

First line: Anti-VEGF injection

Avastin

Eylea on special authority

Second line: Intraocular steroid injection

shut down inflammatory pathways

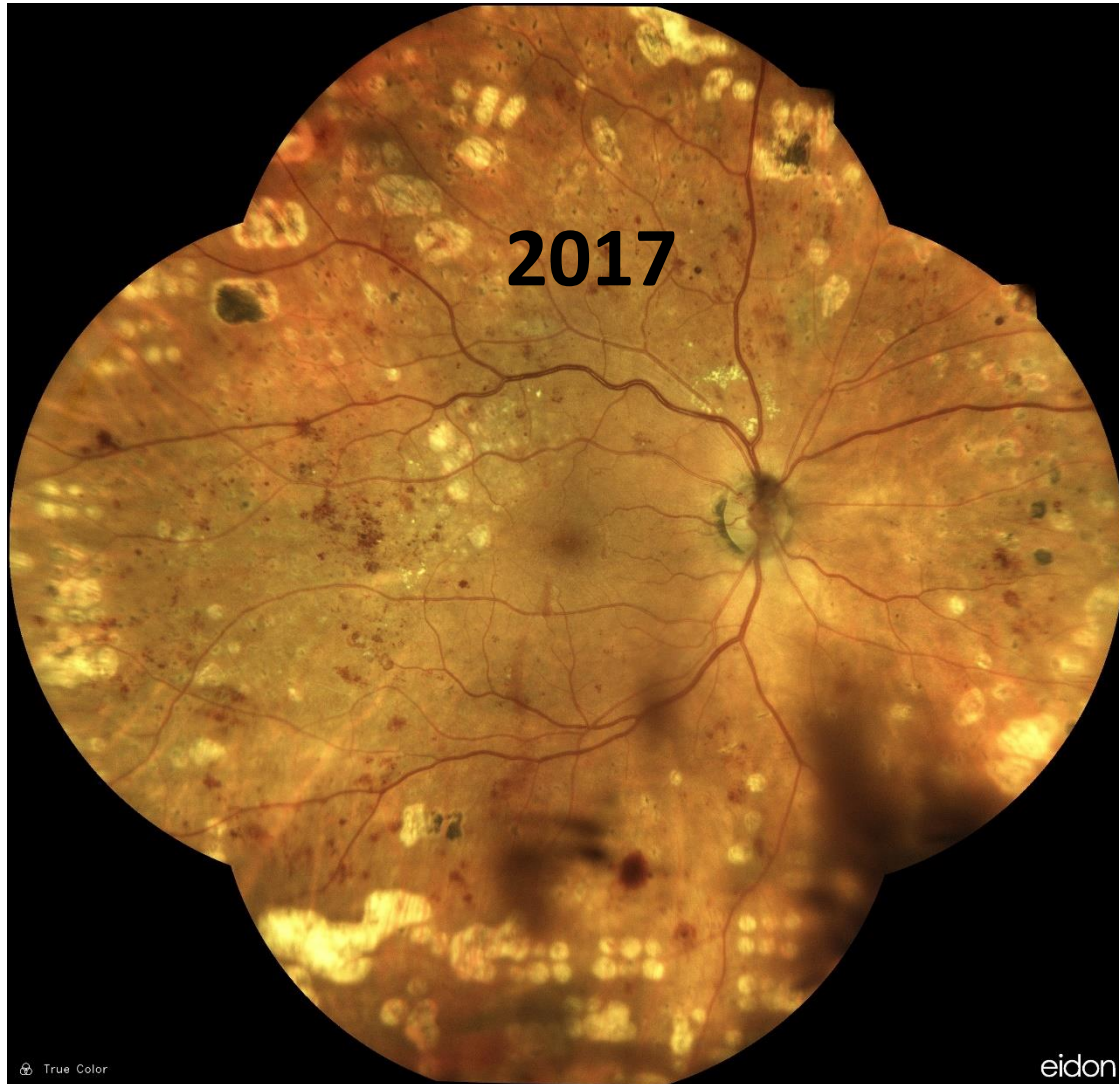
Complications: cataract and steroid glaucoma

Consider: Thermal laser

Vitreoretinal surgery if macular traction

# Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

early 60's F; first seen 2014, BSL 12-17, new floaters right eye



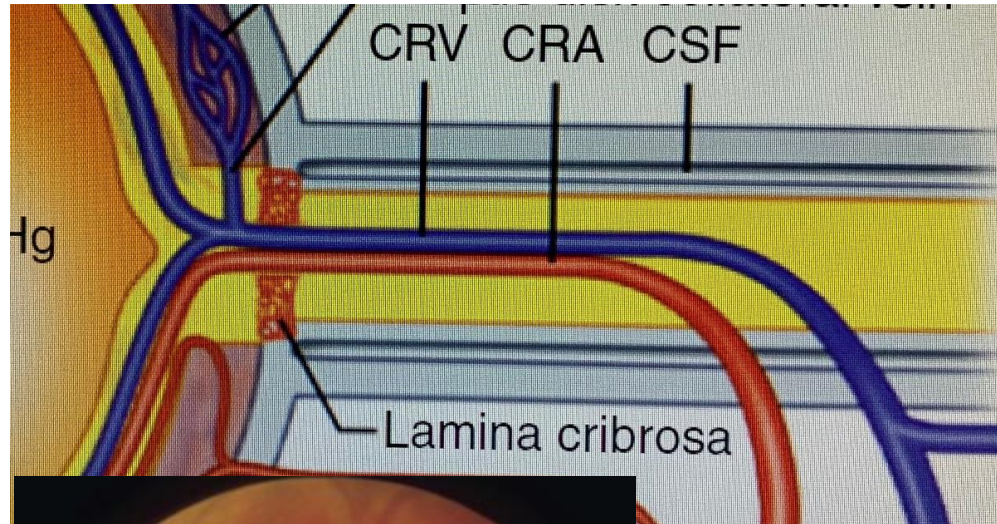
## Rx options

1. Panretinal photocoagulation (PRP)
2. Anti-VEGF
3. Vitrectomy



# Retinal vein occlusions

2<sup>nd</sup> commonest cause of retinal vascular disease



central



branch

## Pathogenesis

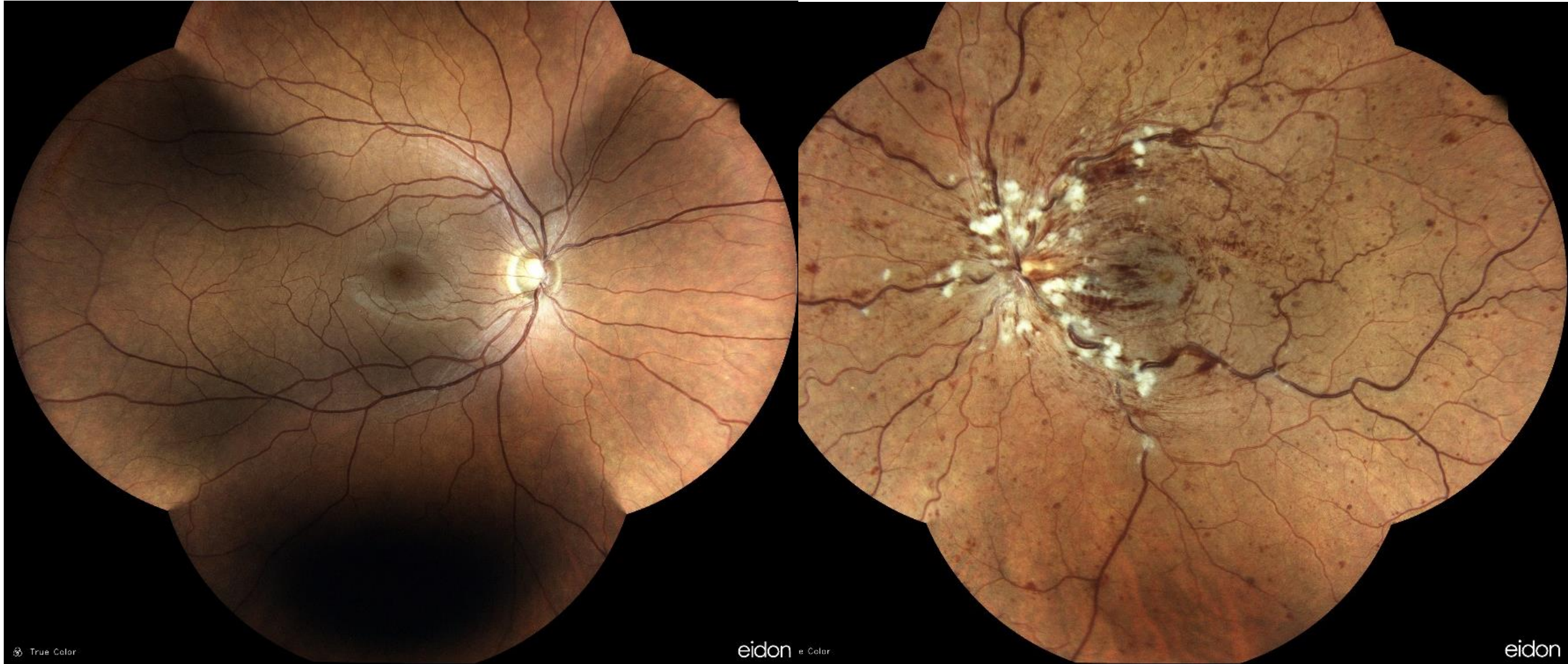
- Retinal artery and vein share a common adventitial sheath
- Atherosclerosis compromises central retinal vein

## Risk factors

- Hypertension
- DM
- Glaucoma (CRVO)
- Thrombophilia in young adults

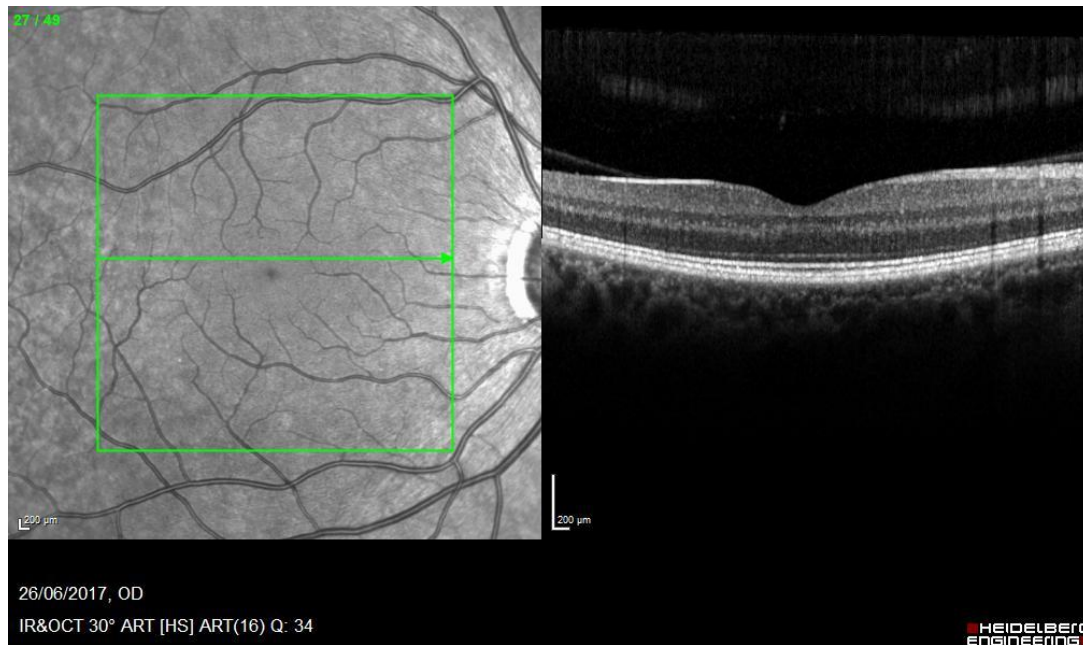
# Acute central retinal vein occlusion

41yM; 3 week decreased left VA, fit and well

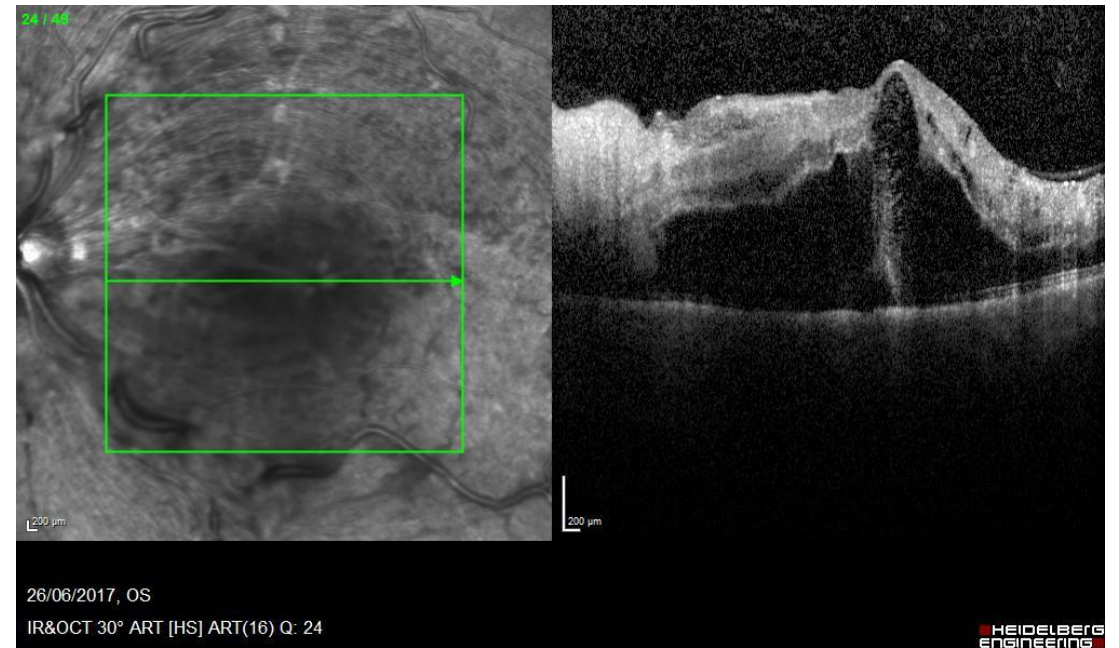


# OCT

## Right



## Left: gross macular oedema



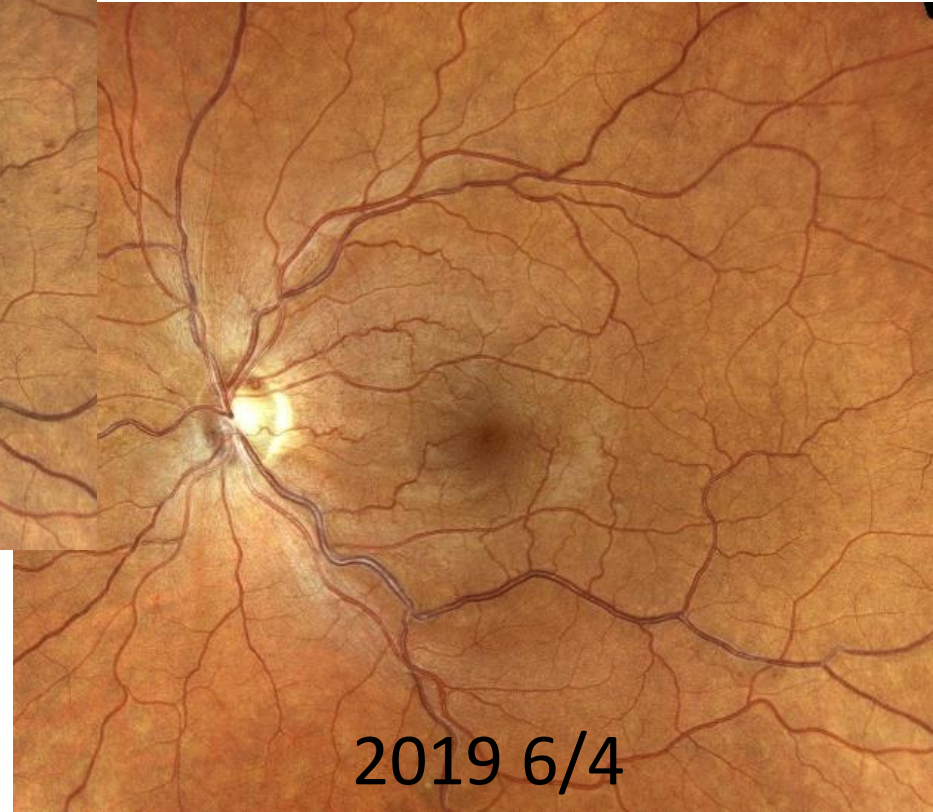
# Rx Intravitreal Avastin x6



2017 CF

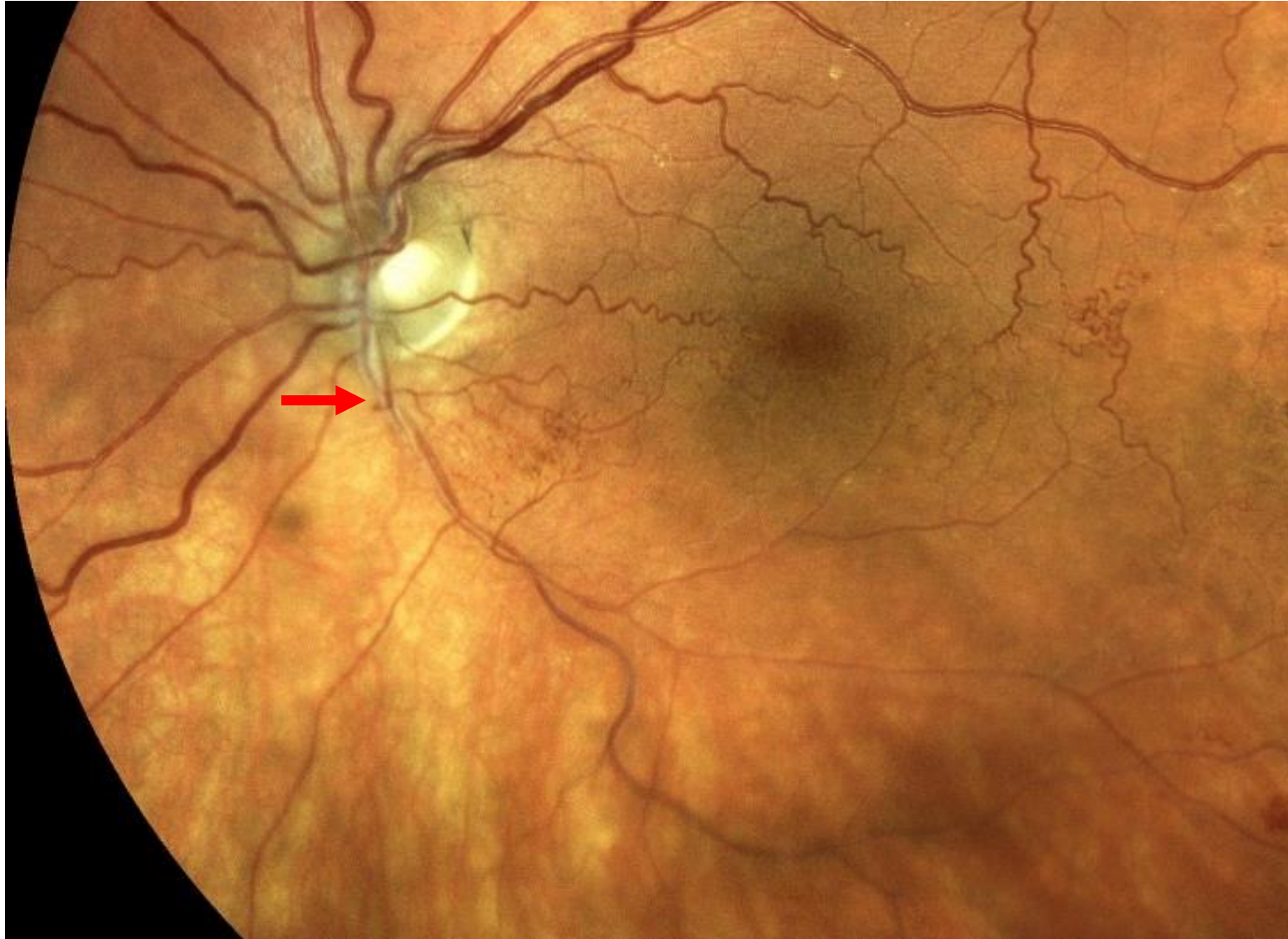


2018 6/6



2019 6/4

# Outcome of retinal vein occlusion

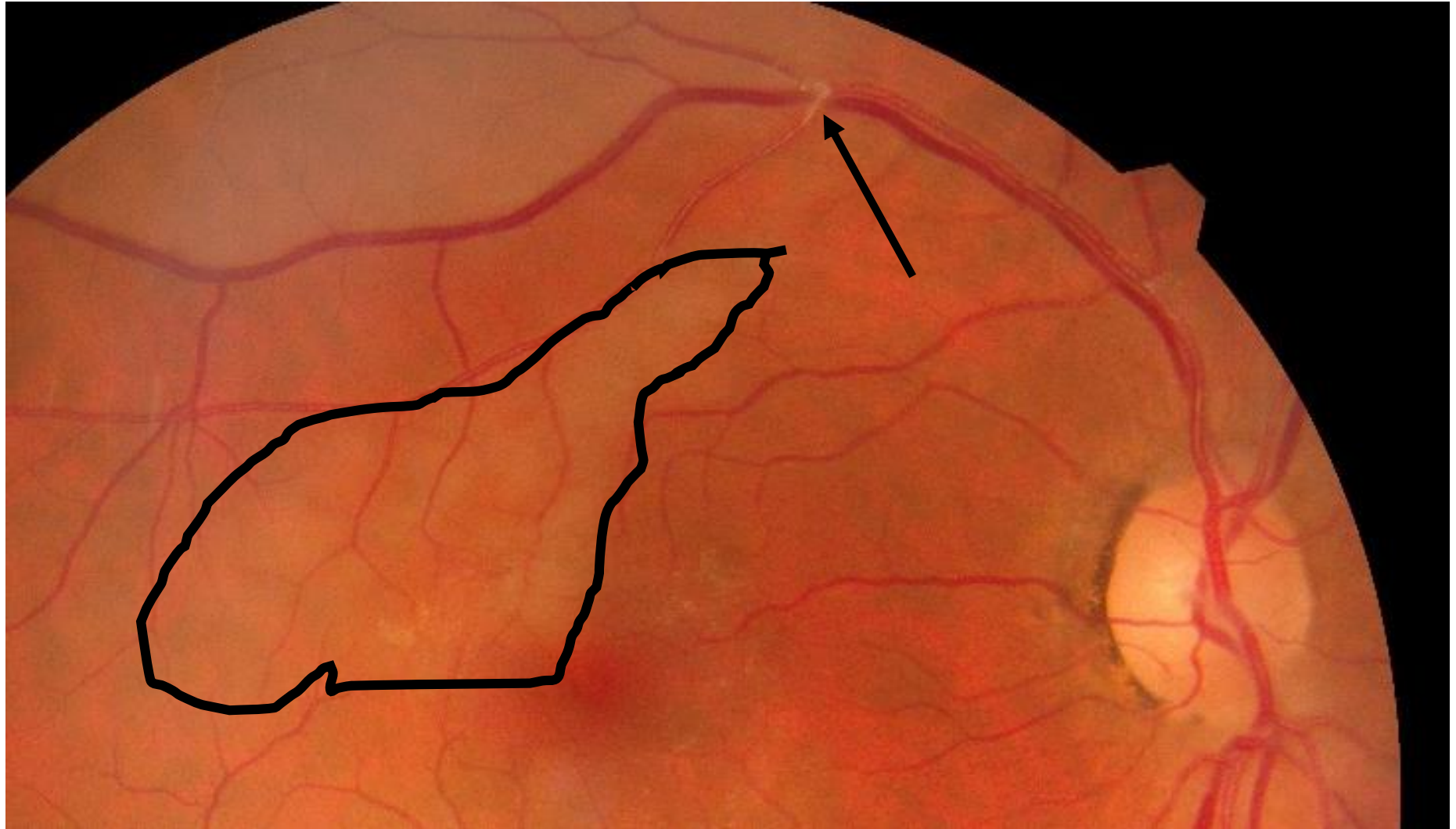


Protect the macular from inflammation and fibrosis with anti-VEGF

Collateral venous drainage

Remodelling of the occlusion

Carotid artery disease: retinal artery embolus  
66yM; presents with right inferior VF scotoma



# Carotid source of retinal emboli

## 1.3% prevalence of retinal emboli in >40yrs

### **Asymptomatic**

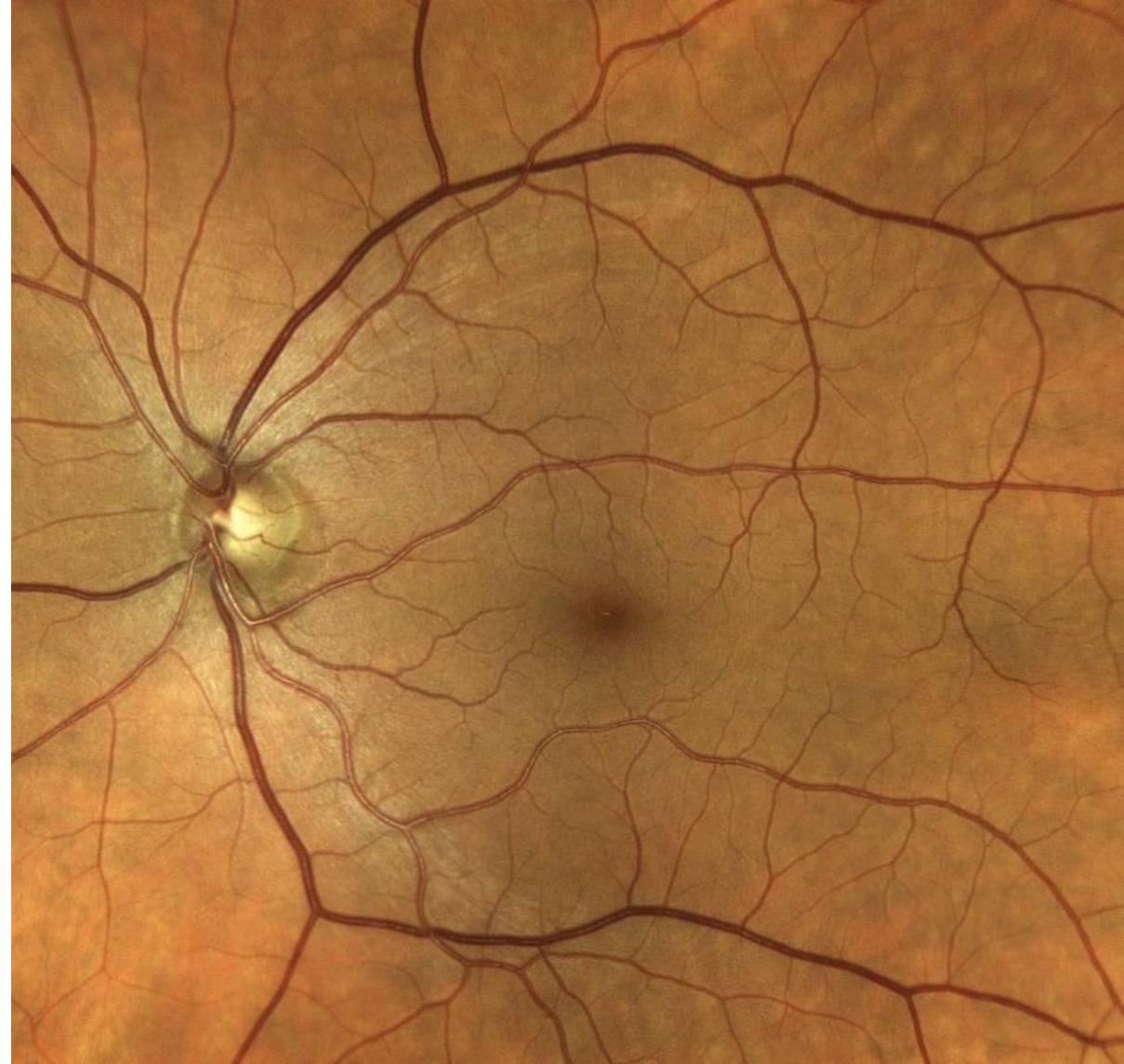
- Associated smoking, IHD, ↑BP
- Majority not associated with significant carotid artery stenosis
- Surgery in asymptomatic cases with significant carotid artery stenosis controversial

### **Symptomatic**

- Strongest evidence for endarterectomy in symptomatic patients with at least 70% stenosis on carotid USS

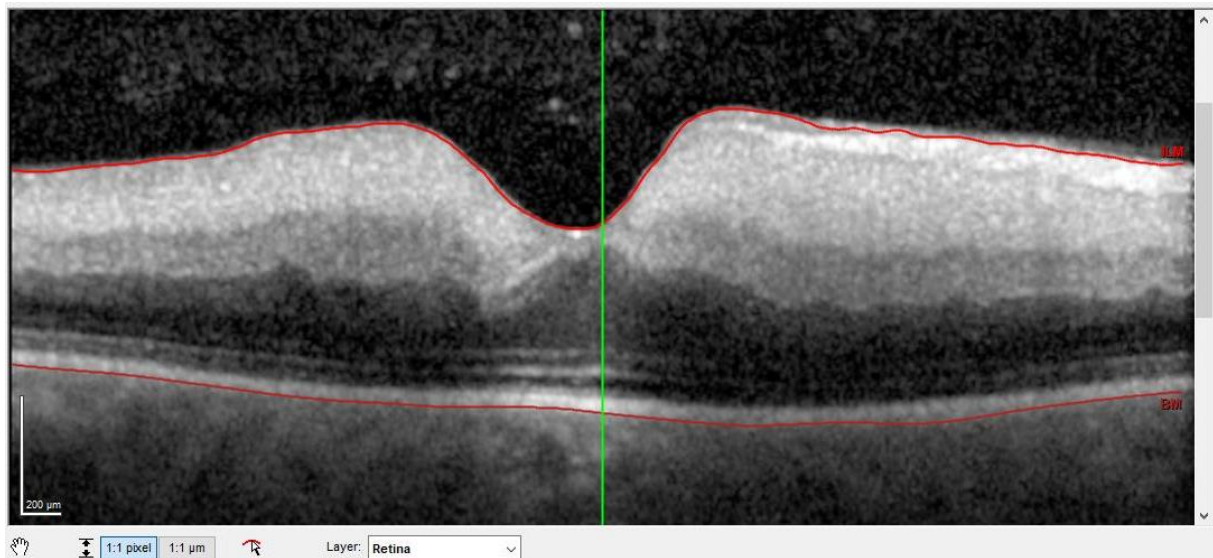
# Right Central retinal artery occlusion

55yM: CVS review, GCA screen, Carotid USS

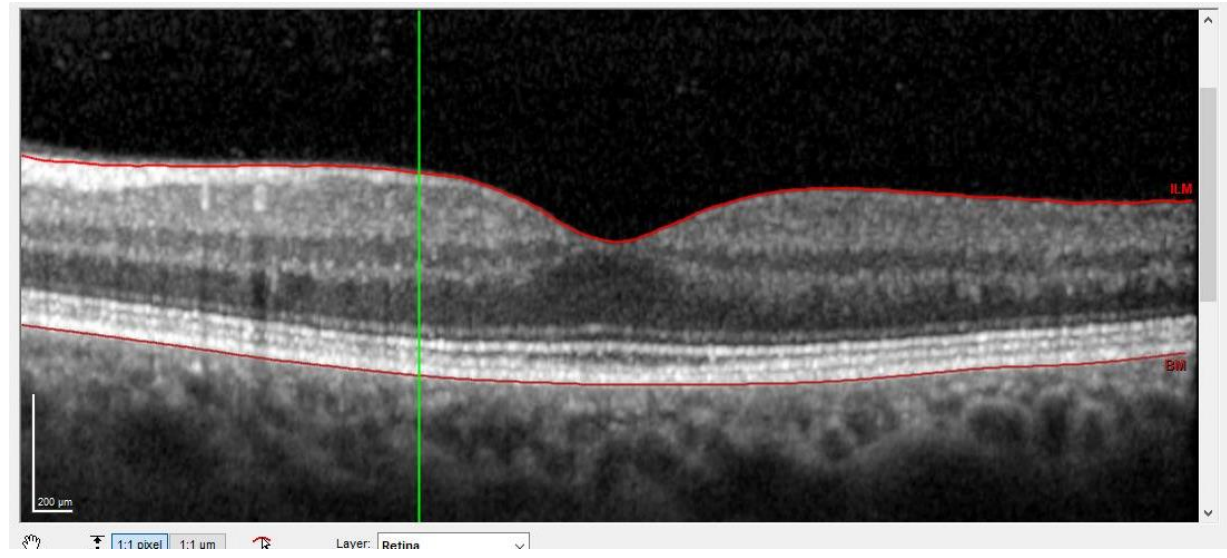


# OCT

**Right: oedematous inner retina**  
**Outer retina perfused by choroid**



**Left normal**



# CRAO: Rx

- No consensus about preferred management in the acute setting
- Most Rx aimed at dislodging embolus further down the arterial tree
- Ideally intervene early (within 24 hrs)

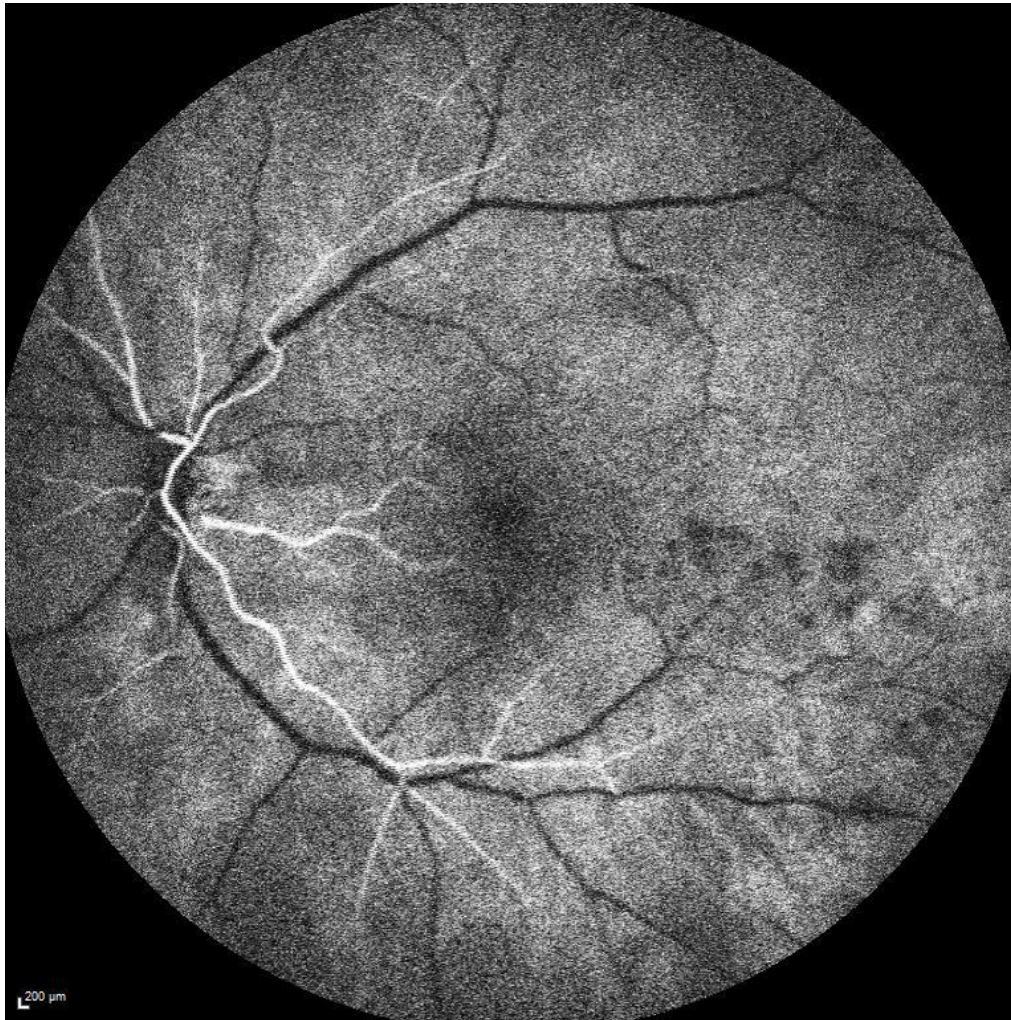
1. Globe pressure
2. Lower IOP medically
3. AC paracentesis
4. Dislodge embolus with YAG laser
5. Thrombolysis (meta-analysis not supportive)
6. Carbogen: 95% O<sub>2</sub> to oxygenate retina from choroid:5% CO<sub>2</sub>
7. Hyperbaric O<sub>2</sub> but hard to understand how brief elevation of O<sub>2</sub> saturation will sustain the retina through days of ischaemia

# Ocular ischaemic syndrome

64yM: blocked carotids and vertebral perfusion of Circle of Willis



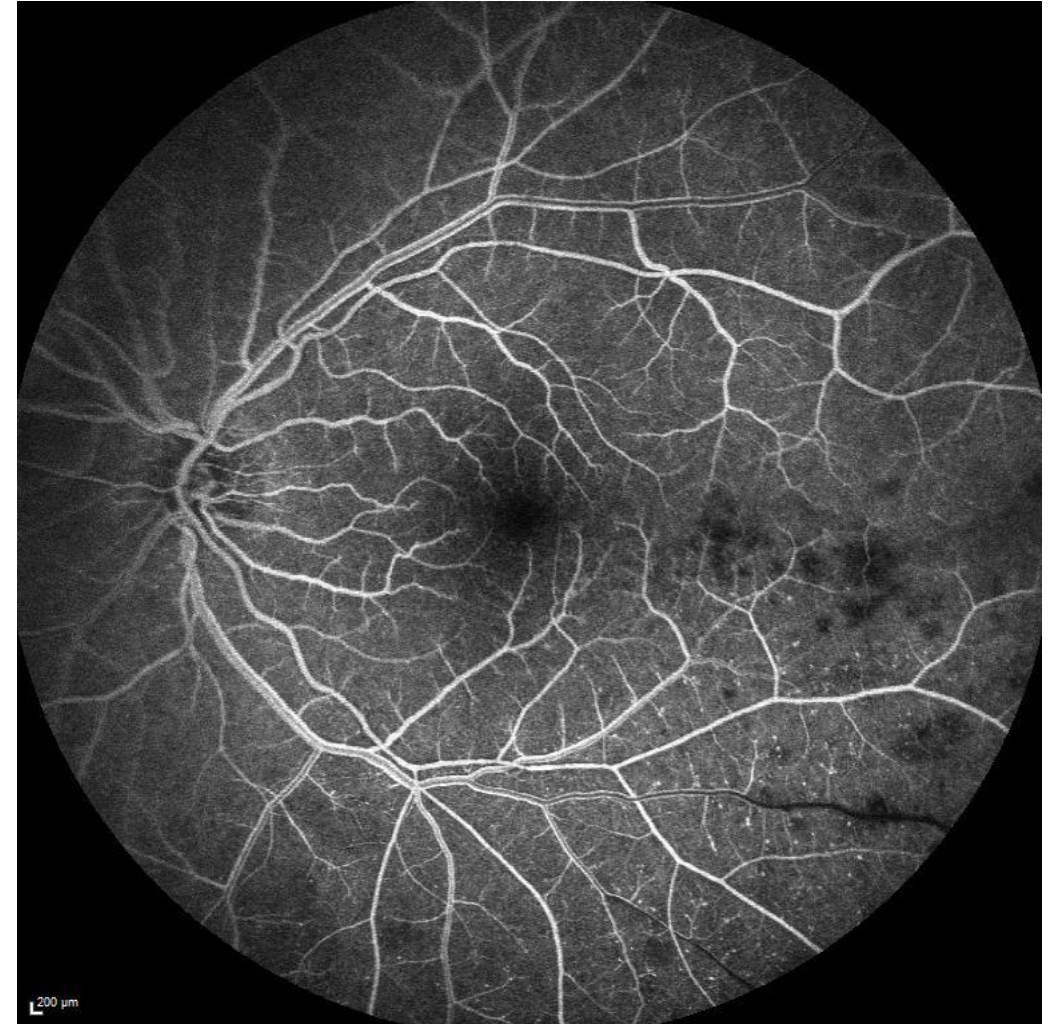
22s



2/05/2019, OS  
FA 0:22.05 55°

HEIDELBERG  
ENGINEERING

35s

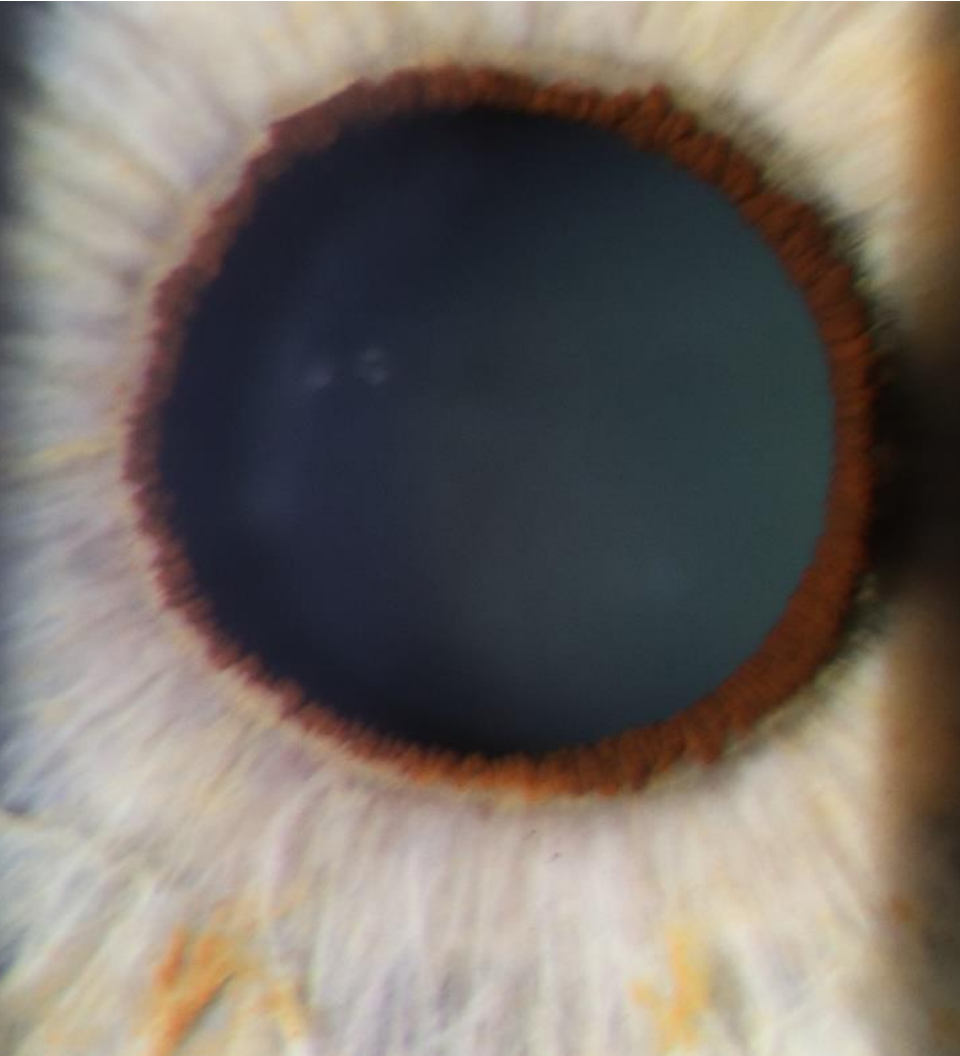


2/05/2019, OS  
FA 0:35.92 55°

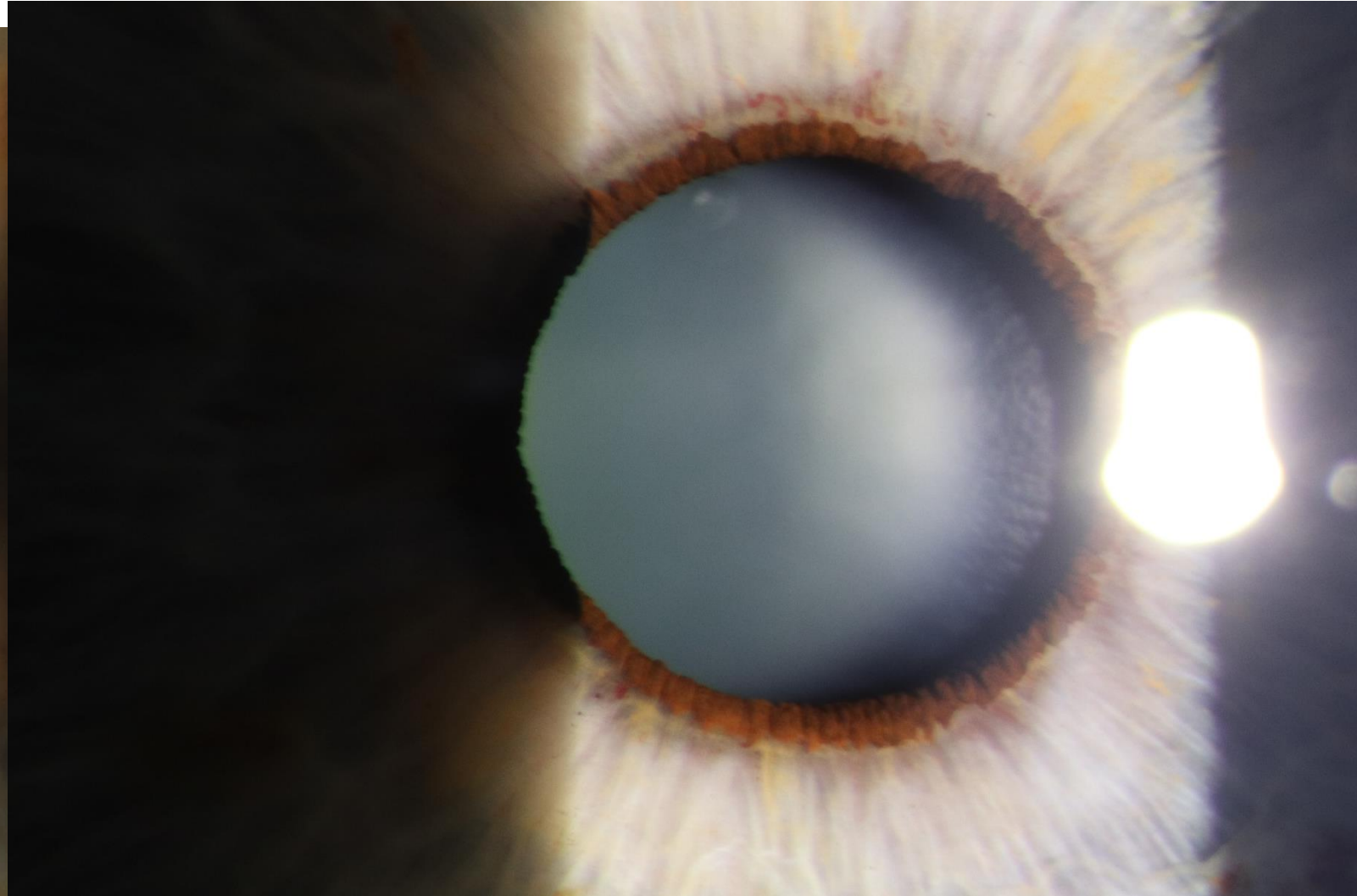
HEIDELBERG  
ENGINEERING

Iris neovascularization → neovascular glaucoma  
Ischaemic retina produces VEGF

**Right**



**Left**



# Ocular ischaemic syndrome

- Ocular Rx
  - antiVEGF to stop neovascular glaucoma
  - PRP
- Systemic Rx
  - Treat CVS risk factors
  - Carotid imaging to assess risk/benefit of endarterectomy
  - Anti-platelet treatment



# Hypertension: Macroaneurysm

79yF BP 180/110



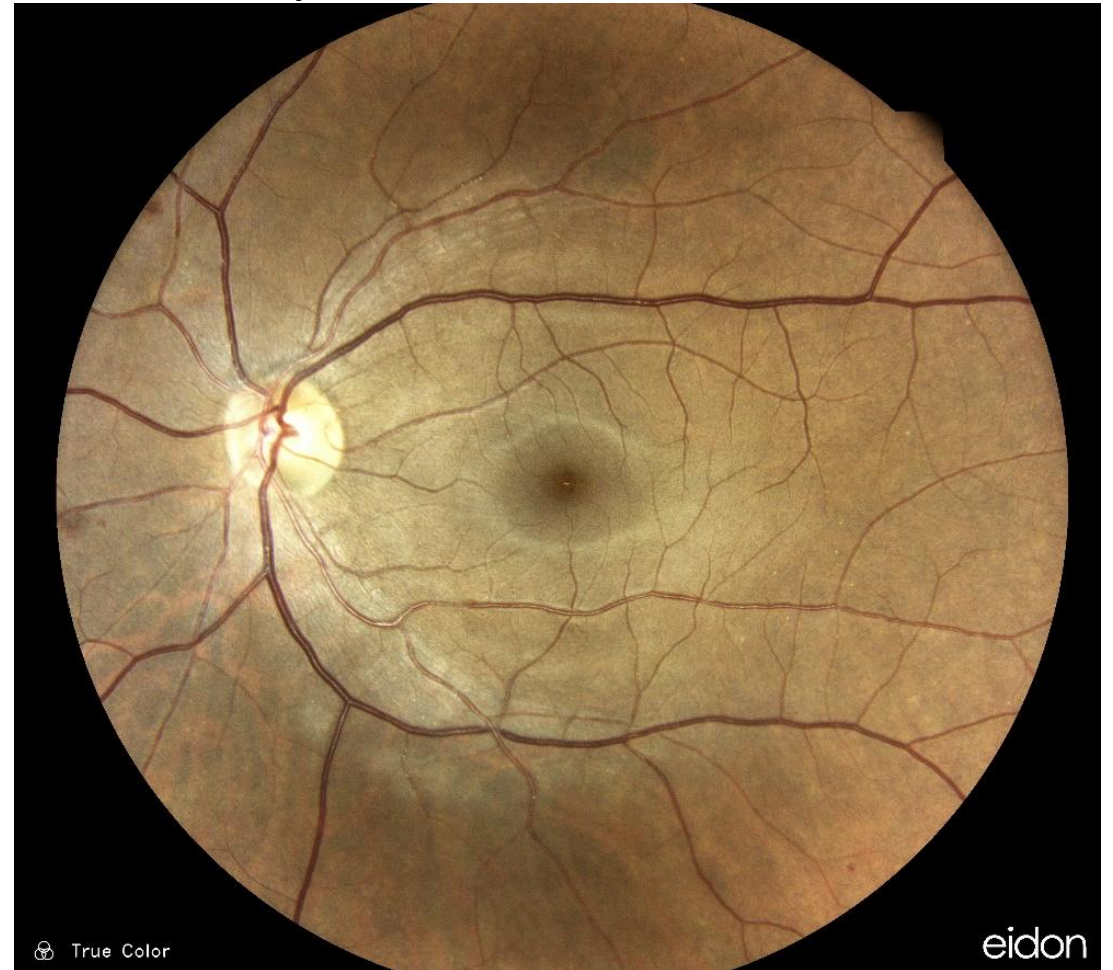
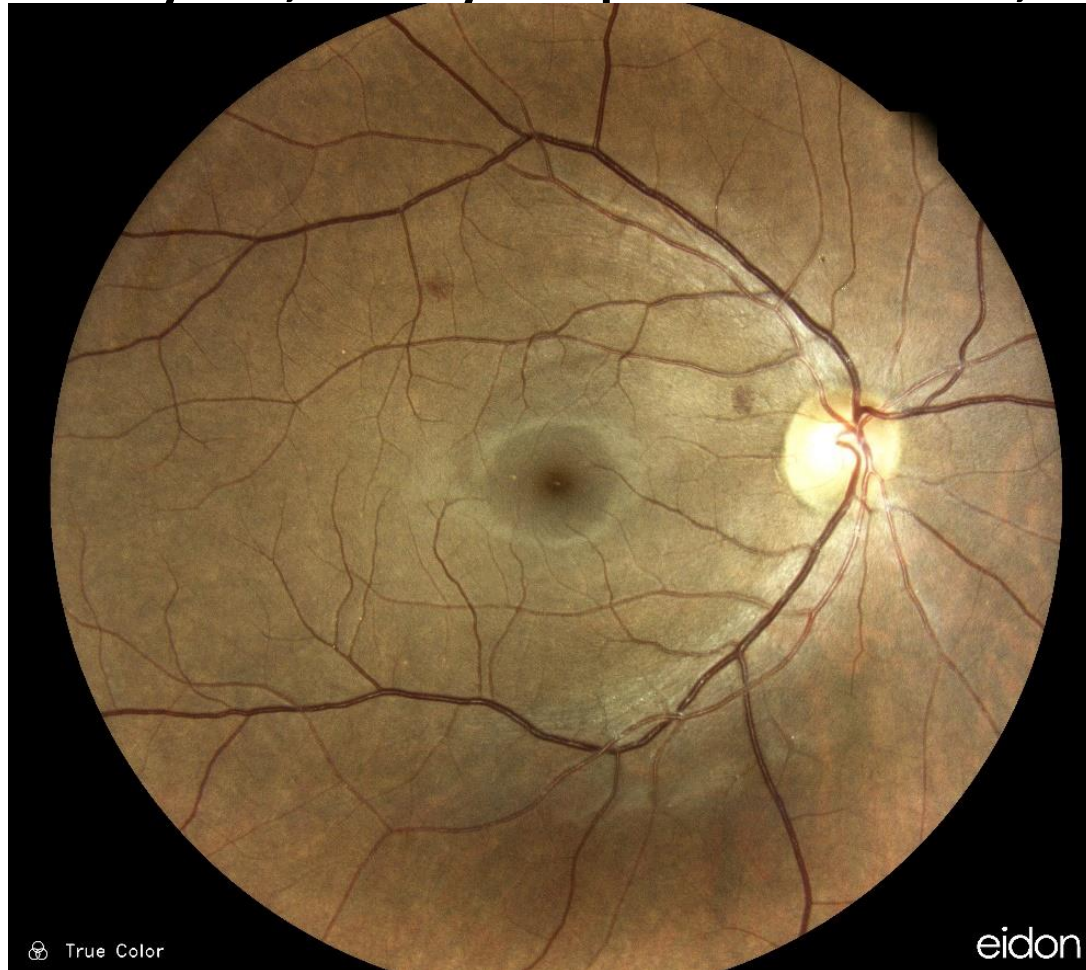
- Acquired focal aneurysmal dilation of an arteriole
- Usually within first 3 orders of the retinal arterial system
- Commonly older, hypertensive, female

# Macroaneurysm: treatment

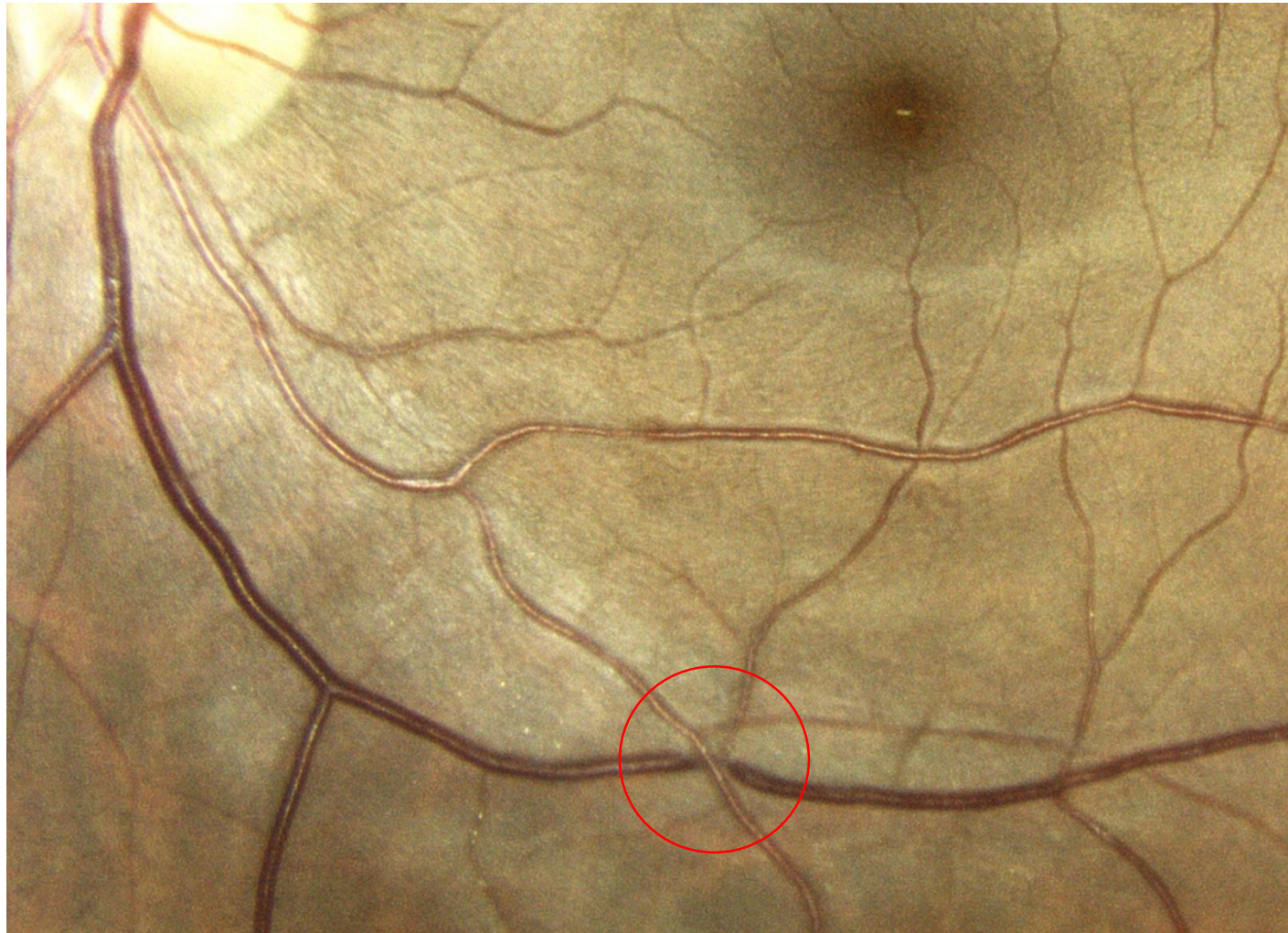
- Generally settle spontaneously
  - Do badly if bleed under the retina and blood breakdown products damage the photoreceptors
1. Control BP
  2. Anti-VEGF
  3. Vitrectomy if break through haemorrhage into vitreous cavity

# Hypertensive retinopathy

48y F; Asymptomatic, BP 210/127

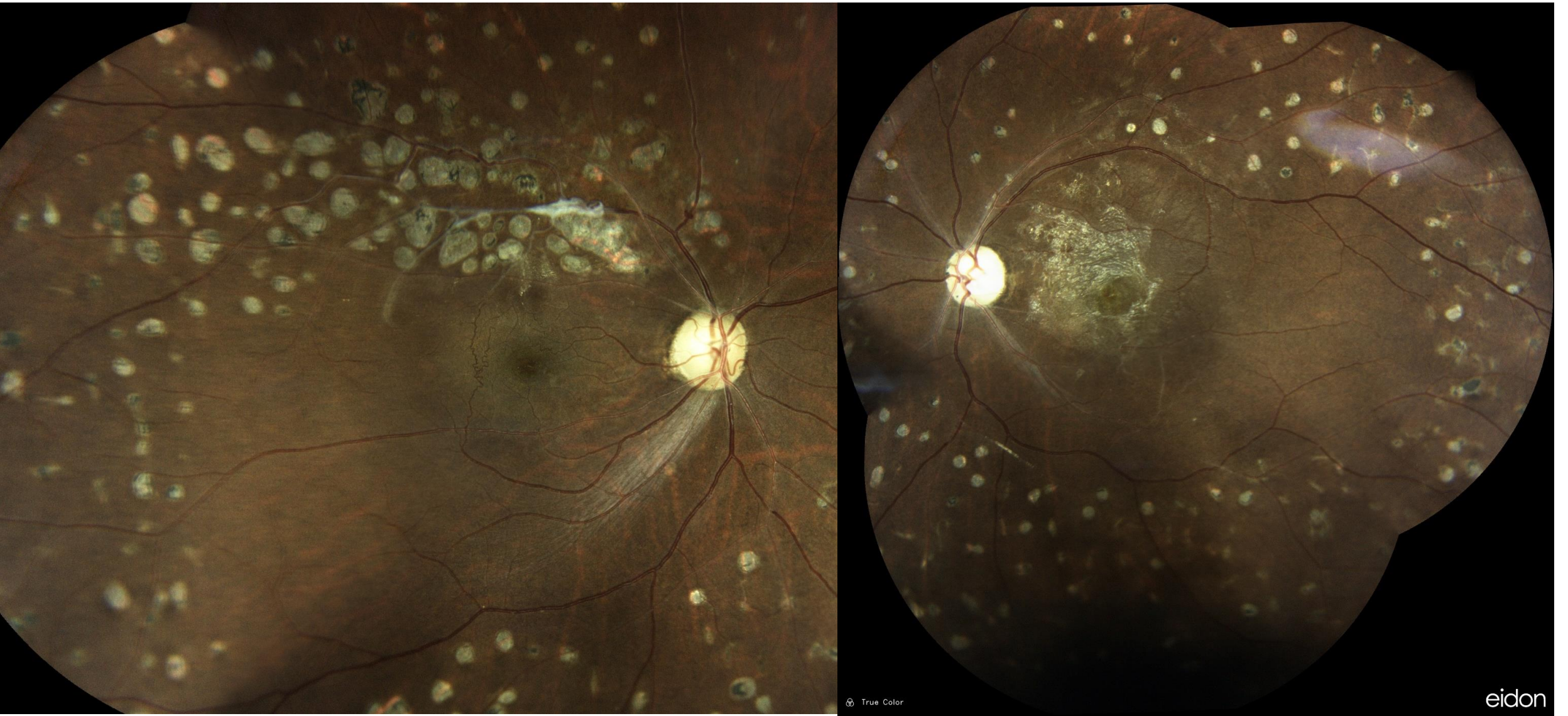


# Arterio-venous nipping

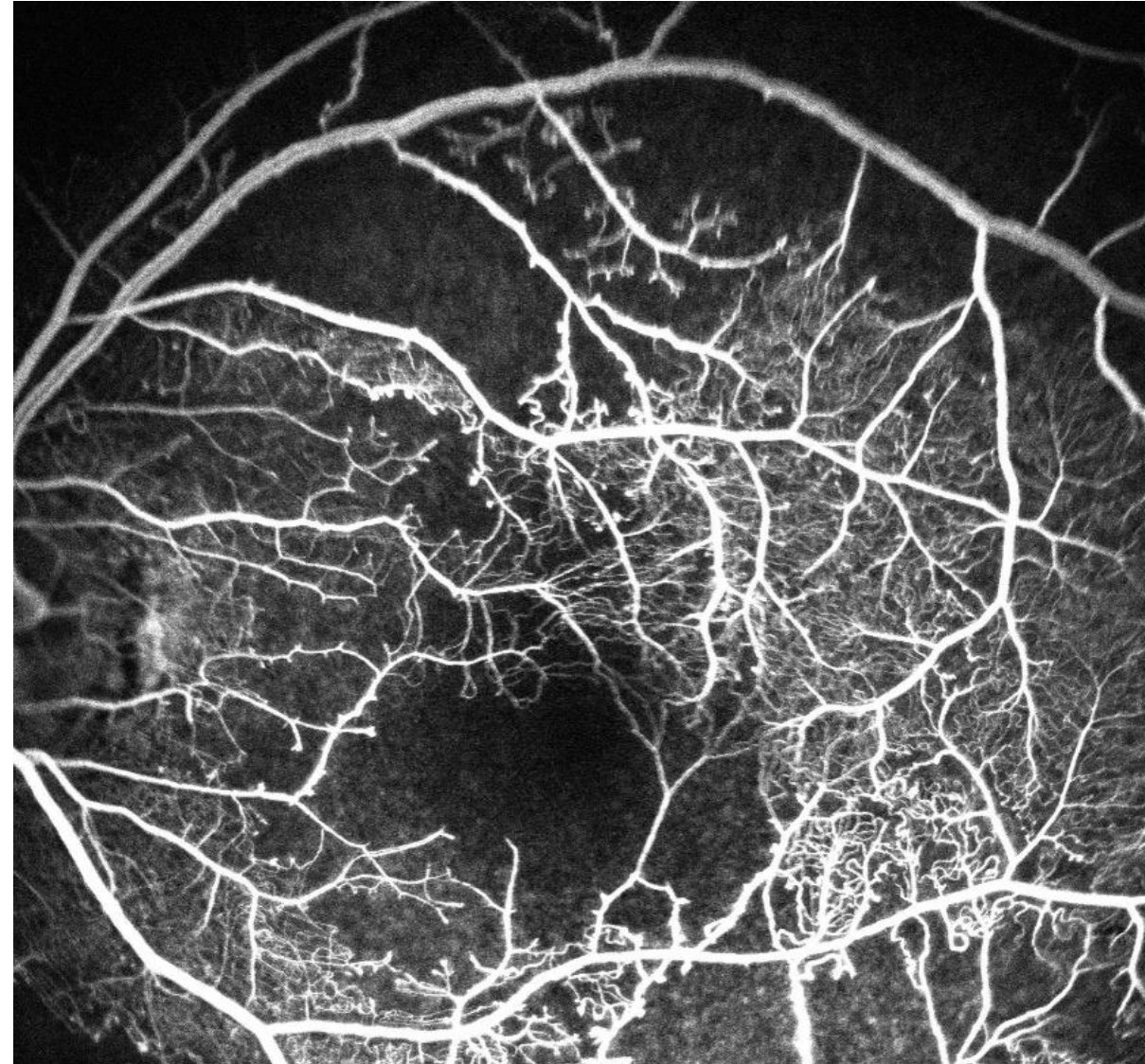


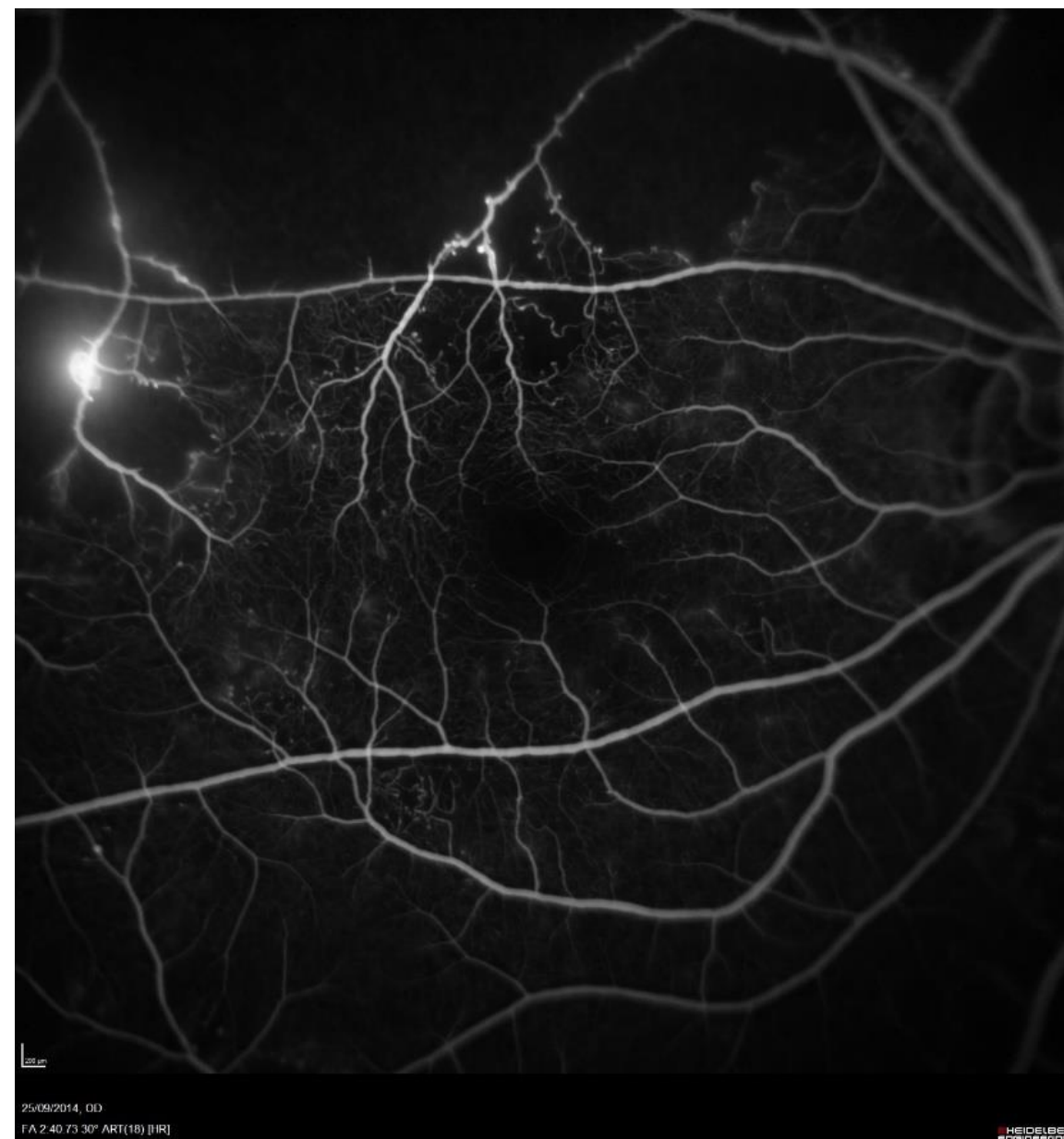
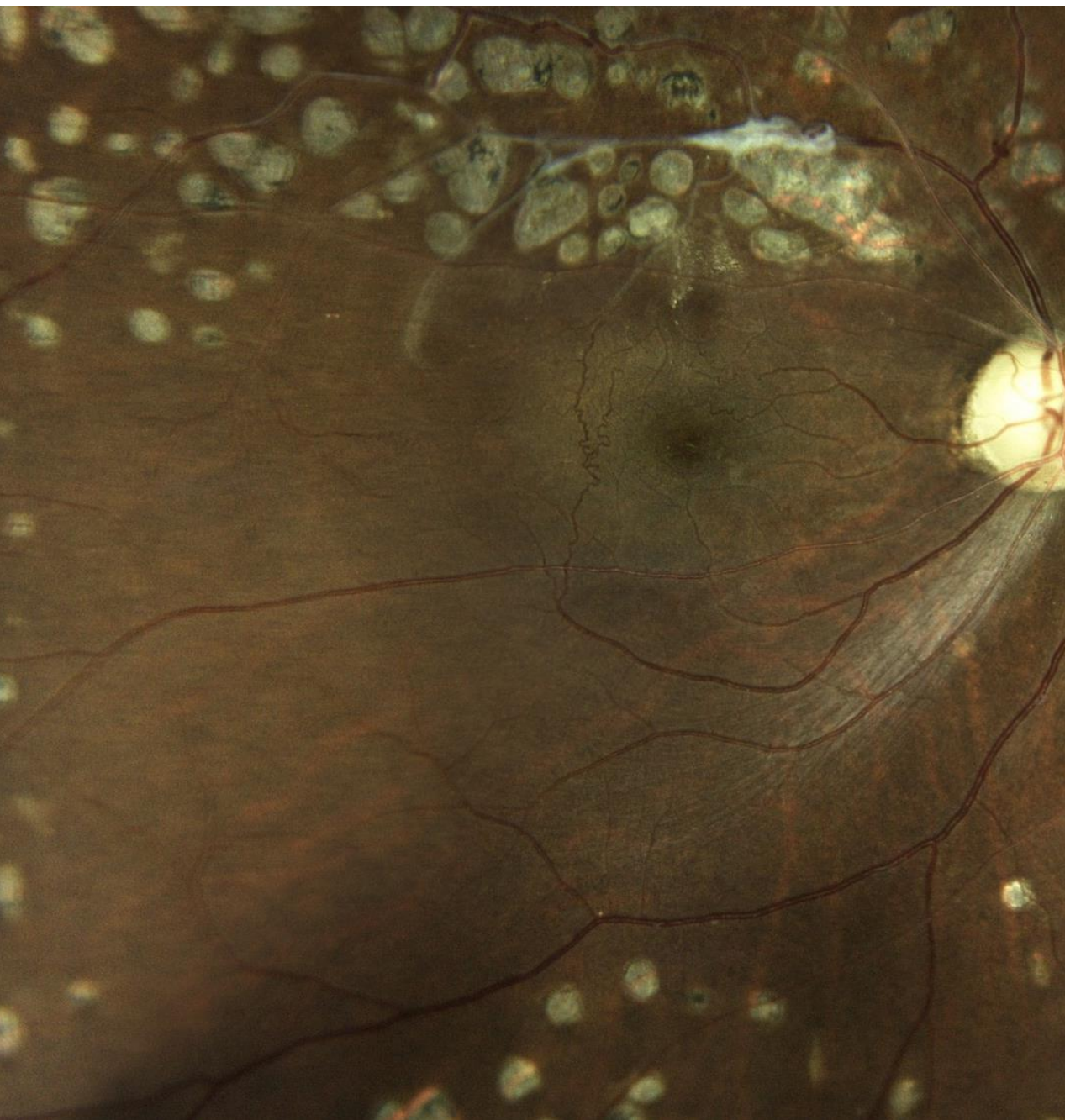
# Vasculitis: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

39 y F: VA 6/7.5 right, Hand movements left



# Fluorescein Angiography: Retinal vessel occlusion





25/09/2014, OD  
FA 2.40 73 30° ART(18) [HR]

# Common systemic causes of retinal vasculitis

- Sarcoidosis
- SLE
- Wegener's Granulomatosis
- Behcet's
- Relapsing polychondritis
- *Infective*
  - *TB*
  - *Syphilis*
  - *HSV/HZV*

# Summary

- An increasing range of retinal treatments available:
  - Thermal laser (subthreshold laser)
  - Anti-VEGF
  - Steroids (intraocular, periocular, oral)
  - DMARDS
  - Vitreoretinal surgery
- **Primary prevention**
  - **CVS risk factors**
  - **Glycaemic control**
  - **Ensure patients enrolled in a diabetic retinopathy screening programme**