

# Retinal imaging

Retinal imaging takes a digital picture of the back of your eye. It shows the retina (where light and images hit), the optic disk (a spot on the retina that holds the optic nerve, which sends information to the brain), and blood vessels.

In the last 20 years, [research](#) focused on developing [retinal imaging](#) as a source of potential [Alzheimer's disease biomarkers](#) and other [neurodegenerative diseases](#), has increased significantly. The Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment, Disease Monitoring editorial team (companion journal to Alzheimer's & Dementia) convened an interdisciplinary discussion in 2019 to identify a path to expedite the development of retinal biomarkers capable of identifying biological changes associated with AD, and for tracking progression of disease severity over time. As different retinal imaging modalities provide different types of structural and/or functional information, the discussion reflected on these modalities and their respective strengths and weaknesses. Discussion further focused on the importance of defining the context of use to help guide the development of retinal biomarkers. Moving from research to context of use, and ultimately to clinical evaluation, this article outlines ongoing retinal imaging research today in Alzheimer's and other brain diseases, including a discussion of future directions for this area of study <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>  
Snyder PJ, Alber J, Alt C, Bain LJ, Bouma BE, Bouwman FH, DeBuc DC, Campbell MCW, Carrillo MC, Chew EY, Cordeiro MF, Dueñas MR, Fernández BM, Koronyo-Hamaoui M, La Morgia C, Carare RO, Sadda SR, van Wijngaarden P, Snyder HM. Retinal imaging in Alzheimer's and neurodegenerative diseases. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2020 Oct 8. doi: 10.1002/alz.12179. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33090722.

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