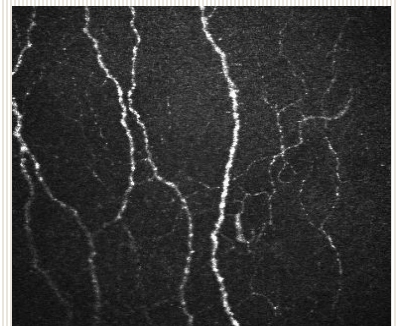


## **‘Corneal Confocal Microscopy: A new way of Screening & Early Detection of Diabetic Neuropathy**



**Mitra Tavakoli**

*BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MCOptom, FBCLA, FAAO*

Senior Lecturer in Medicine,  
University of Exeter Medical School

Press release

# **“Diabetes no longer leading cause of blindness thanks to screening”**



“For the first time in over 50 years diabetic eye disease is no longer the leading cause of blindness in adults of working age. Although many factors have likely contributed to the results, it is safe to say that public health interventions such as screening have played a key role.”



# Screening for Microvascular Complications

- Defines at risk patients
- Anticipates deterioration
- Enables assessment of new therapies

- Retinopathy (fundus photography/OCT)

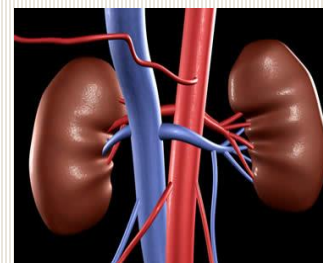
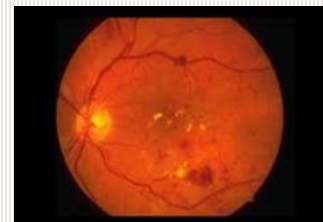
NOT the Leading cause of blindness  
in working age adults in the UK

- Nephropathy (microalbuminuria/eGFR)

Leading cause of end-stage renal  
disease

- **Neuropathy** (*No similar surrogate*)

Leading cause of non-traumatic lower  
extremity amputations







**DiABETES UK**  
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.



## More than 135 diabetes amputations every week

Wednesday 15 July 2015

New figures have revealed that the number of diabetes-related amputations each week in England has now reached an all-time record high of 135, according to new analysis by Diabetes UK.

The figures, calculated using new Public Health England data, show that the annual number of diabetes-related amputations in England is now more than 7,000, compared to the previous figure of 6,677. This equates to seven more amputations each week. Yet, with good diabetes and footcare, up to 80 per cent of these amputations can be avoided.

## Diabetes-related amputations figure rising

The figures show that despite a big focus on preventing these amputations, the amputation rate for major and minor amputations combined in people with diabetes has stayed the same. And because of the sharp increase in the number of people with diabetes in the past 20 years, the number of diabetes-related amputations is rising.

There is, though, some positive news in that the major amputation rate (classified as amputations above the ankle) has decreased slightly since Diabetes UK launched the Putting Feet First campaign in 2012.

## Diabetes UK calls on Government and NHS to act

Diabetes UK is calling on the Government and the NHS to do more to tackle the problem of diabetes-related amputation by improving diabetes footcare. This includes ensuring everyone with diabetes gets good quality annual foot checks and that anyone who has a foot problem gets the right care to prevent or treat it. It is particularly important that if anyone with diabetes has a foot infection they get urgent attention from a team of specialists.



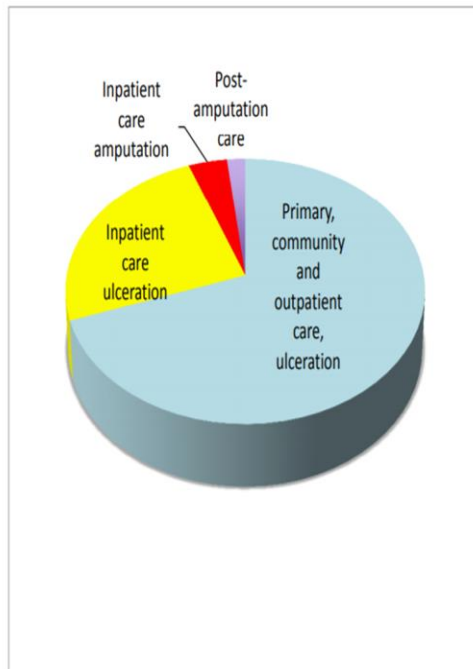
# 135 DIABETES VICTIMS EACH WEEK HAVE AMPUTATIONS

Obesity crisis fuels shock surge in disease-related ops costing NHS £2billion

IT WAS THE BIGGEST AMPUTATION SURGE due to diabetes have soared to 135 a week - yet four in five could be prevented, experts say. As Type 2 diabetes soars with the worsening obesity crisis, the NHS has spent £2billion in three years on amputations that could be avoided with better patient care. Barbara Young of Diabetes UK says: "We need urgent action." FULL STORY PAGES A6

# The Financial Cost of Diabetic Foot

Estimated NHS cost  
in England =  
£972m.-£1.13 bn.  
in 2014-15



£1 in every £140  
the NHS spends

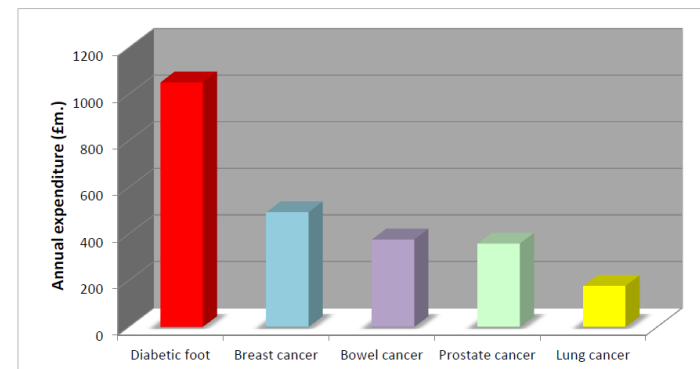


## Costs in context

Insight  
Health Economics

Estimated NHS cost is higher than the combined annual cost of three of the four most common cancers

(Source for cancer costs: NHS Programme Budgeting 2012-13, inflation-adjusted)

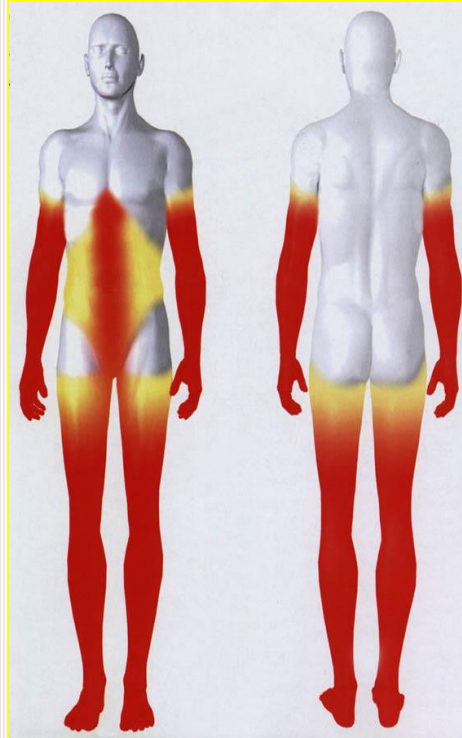


Only 50% of people with diabetes  
who have an amputation survive for  
two years.(2)

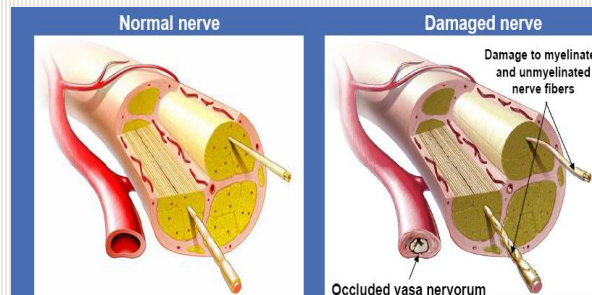
1. Kerr et al. Insight Health Economics 2017
2. Brownrigg JR et al. Diabetologia 2012; 55(11):2906-12

# DIABETIC NEUROPATHY

**PAIN**

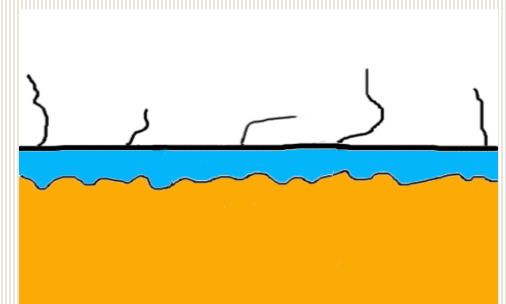
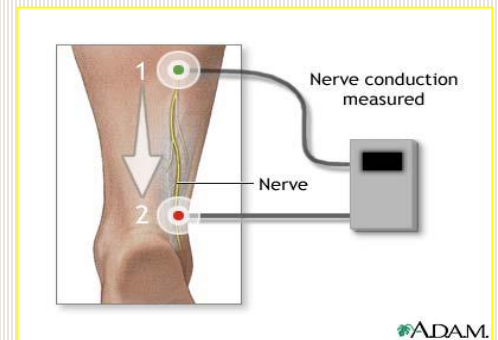
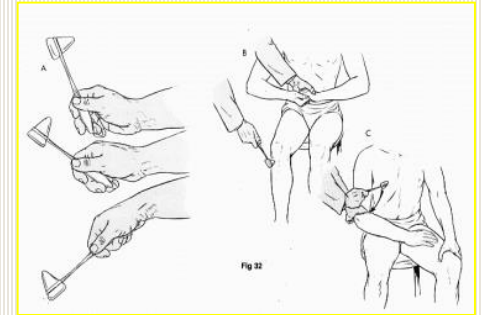


**ULCERATION  
AMPUTATION**



# Which Test?

- Neurological examination
- 10g monofilament
- Vibration perception threshold
- Electrophysiology (NCS)
- **Relevance to end points?**  
Pain/ulceration





# Consequence of late Diagnosis





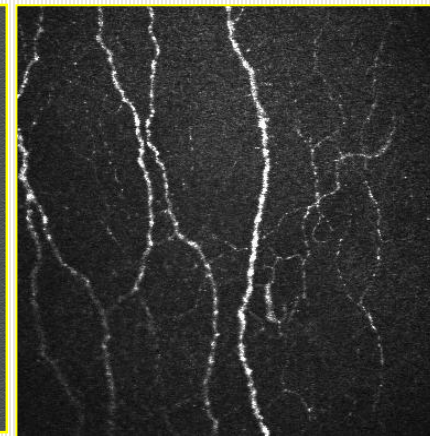
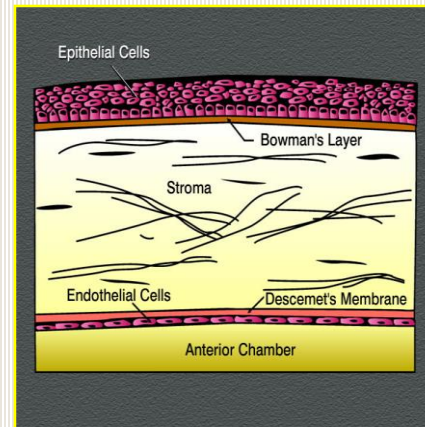
**“How we think determines what we measure”**

*-A Einstein*



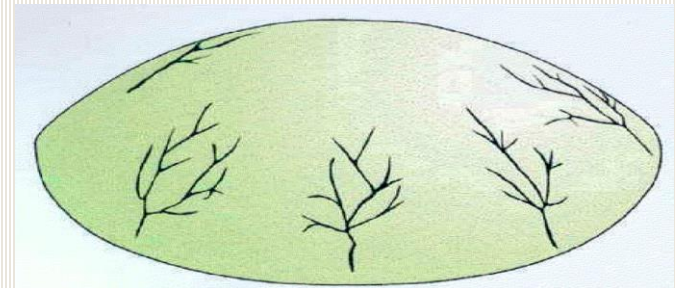
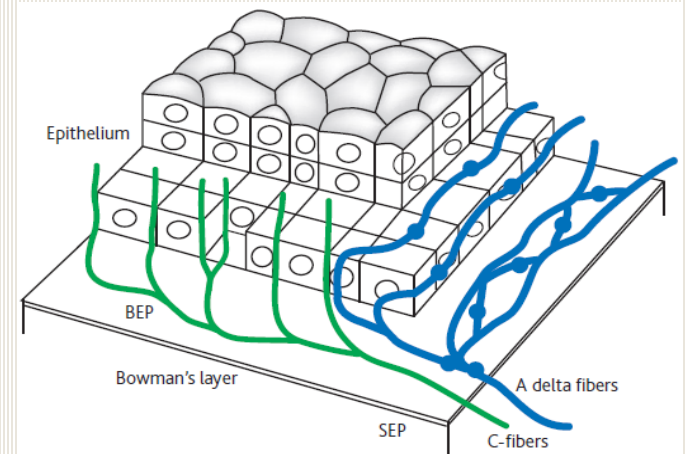
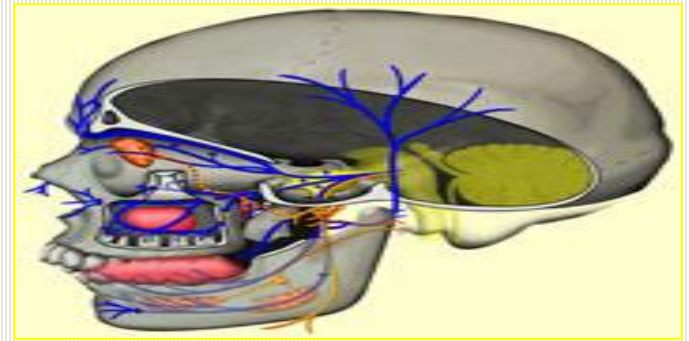
# A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Approach: Corneal Confocal Microscopy

- Rapid (2 minutes)
- Non-invasive (in vivo)
- Reiterative
- en-face view images of corneal structure



# Corneal Innervation

- Cornea is the most densely innervated tissue of the human body.
- Corneal innervation is derived from the Trigeminal nerve.
- Unmyelinated C nerve fibres & Myelinated A- $\delta$

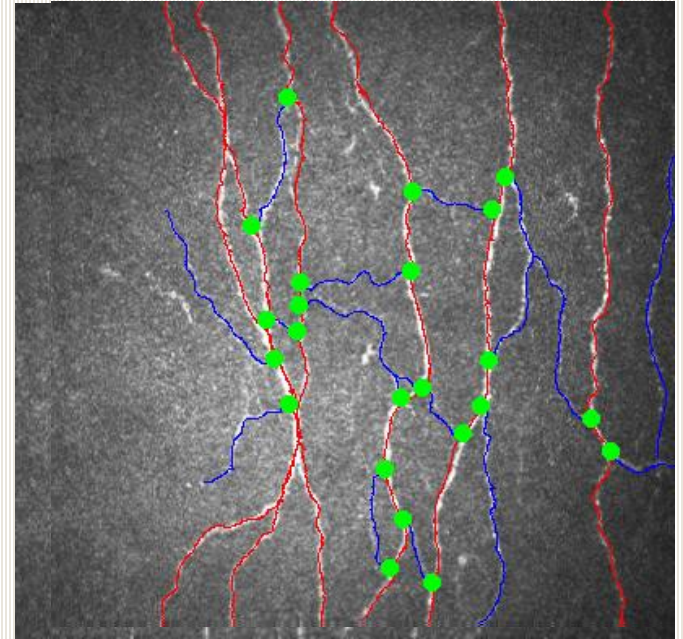


# Corneal Nerve Quantification

- CCM (6 images/patient)  
CNFD (no./mm<sup>2</sup>) + TC (Red)  
CNFL (mm/mm<sup>2</sup>) (Red + Blue)  
CNBD (no./mm<sup>2</sup>) (Green)

Intra observer variability-ICC-0.74-0.95

Inter observer variability-ICC-0.93-0.95



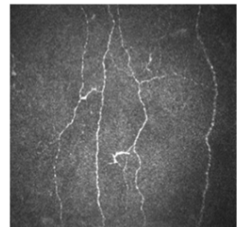
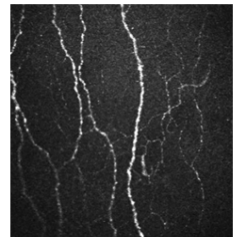
CCMetrics®, M. A. Dabbah, University of Manchester, Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering, School of Cancer and Enabling Sciences.



# Corneal Confocal Microscopy: A Surrogate End Point

CCM has been clinically proven in adults for:

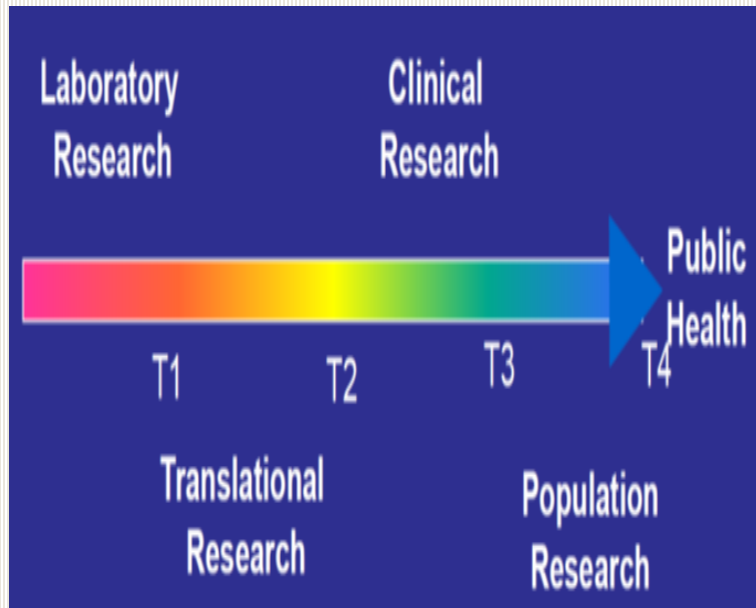
- Objective early diagnostic test of diabetic neuropathy (1-3)
- Assesses Intervention/therapeutic response (4-5)
- High Reproducibility & Sensitivity (6-7)
- Correlation with pathology (pathogenic process) (1,3,8, 9)
- Correlation with functional changes (biologic process) (10, 11)
- Other Neuropathies (12-16)
- Established Normative reference values (17)



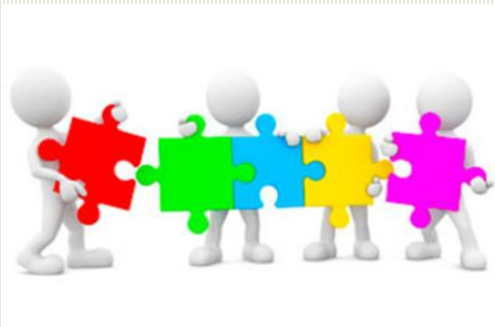
1. Tavakoli M, et al. Diabetes Care. 2010; 33(8):1792-7. 2. Petropoulos IN, et al. Diabetes Care. 2013; 36(11):3646-51. 3. Ziegler D, et al. Diabetes. 2014; 63(7):2454-63. 4. Tavakoli M, et al. Diabet Med. 2011; 28(10):1261-7. 5. Tavakoli M, et al. Diabetes. 2013; 62(1):254-60. 6. Petropoulos IN, Cornea. 2013; 32(5):e83-9. 7. Hertz P, et al. Diabet Med. 2011; 28(10):1253-60. 8. Quattrini C, Diabetes. 2007; 56(8):2148-54. 9. Sivaskandarajah GA. Diabetes Care. 2013; 36(9):2748-55. 10. Tavakoli M, et al. Diabetes Care. 2007; 30(7):1895-7. 11. Pritchard N, et al. Clinical & experimental optometry. 2012; 95(3):355-61. 12. Tavakoli M, et al. Muscle & nerve. 2012; 46(5):698-704. 13. Tavakoli M, et al. Exp Neurol. 2010; 223(1):245-50. 14. Tavakoli M, et al. Muscle Nerve. 2009; 40(6):976-84. 15. Asghar O, et al. Diabetes Care. 2014; 37: 2643-. 16. Azmi et al. Diabetes Care 2015 (In Press); 17. Tavakoli M, et al. Diabetes Care, 2015; 38:838-843

# CCM: Neuropathy Screening tool

## The Wilson-Jungner Criteria (WJC)



1. An important health problem.
2. Treatment at an early stage more beneficial than at a later stage.
3. Physical and psychological risks - *less than* the benefits.
4. The costs - balanced against the benefits.
5. Adequate health service resources provided for the extra workload resulting from screening
6. **The condition's natural history – to be well understood.**
7. **Detectable early stage.**
8. **Suitable test - devised for the early stage.**
9. **The test - acceptable.**
10. **Intervals for repeating the test – to be determined.**



# From Research to Practice:

## Screening for Diabetic Neuropathy

# Implementation of Corneal Confocal Microscopy for Screening Diabetic Neuropathy alongside Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme

## A Feasibility Study

High Court..not on honeymoon

# 135 DIABETES VICTIMS EACH WEEK HAVE AMPUTATIONS

Obesity crisis fuels shock surge in disease-related ops costing NHS £2billion

**DIABETES REPORT**  
AMPUTATIONS due to diabetes have soared to 135 a week yet four in five could be prevented, experts say. As Type 2 diabetes now has no cure, it is the leading cause of amputations in the NHS. Experts say that while there are no cures, it can be prevented with better protection of the blood sugar of diabetics. It is said: "We need urgent action". **FULL STORY: PAGE 4-5**

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## Simple test by University of Manchester diabetics from having limbs amputated

06:00, 1 JULY 2015 BY DEAN KIRBY

Hundreds of patients will take part in pioneering tests as part of £200k project

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## Diabetic? One quick trip to the optician's could save your...leg: Two-minute eye test detects early signs of nerve damage

- Test uses a probe with a camera to scan the eye for early signs of damage
- Diabetics are at particularly high risk of condition known as neuropathy
- They suffer damage to nerves that transmit impulses from brain to body
- Can lead to complications in limbs and amputations if not caught early

By KATHERINE KEOGH FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY  
PUBLISHED: 22:02, 9 May 2015 | UPDATED: 13:03, 10 May 2015

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## Optom trial to scan cornea for diabetic nerve damage

APRIL 30 2015

Researchers at the University of Manchester are embarking on a six-month project to screen patients for diabetic nerve damage by scanning the nerves of the cornea. If successful, the technique could form part of the diagnostic arsenal of community optometrists.

The £200,000 project, which is part-funded by Heidelberg Engineering, will be carried out at four optometry practices in Greater Manchester and aims to assess the feasibility of a community approach, alongside diabetic retinopathy screening.

Diabetic neuropathy is a common long-term complication of diabetes which affects the nerves. It mainly affects the legs and feet and can lead to ulceration and even amputation of a



# Screening for Early Detection of Diabetic Neuropathy in Newly Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes alongside of Retinopathy Screening

# Study Population

**450 DM Patients and 70 Healthy Subjects have been  
screened with CCM for Diabetic Neuropathy  
in 4 primary care optometry practices**

**(South Manchester Screening Programme)**

**97 T2DM patients  
with Duration of  
Diabetes < 1.4 year**

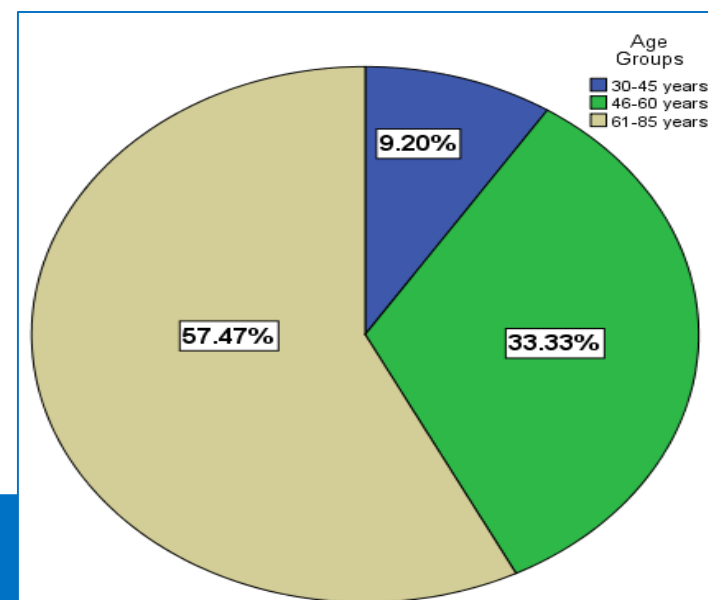
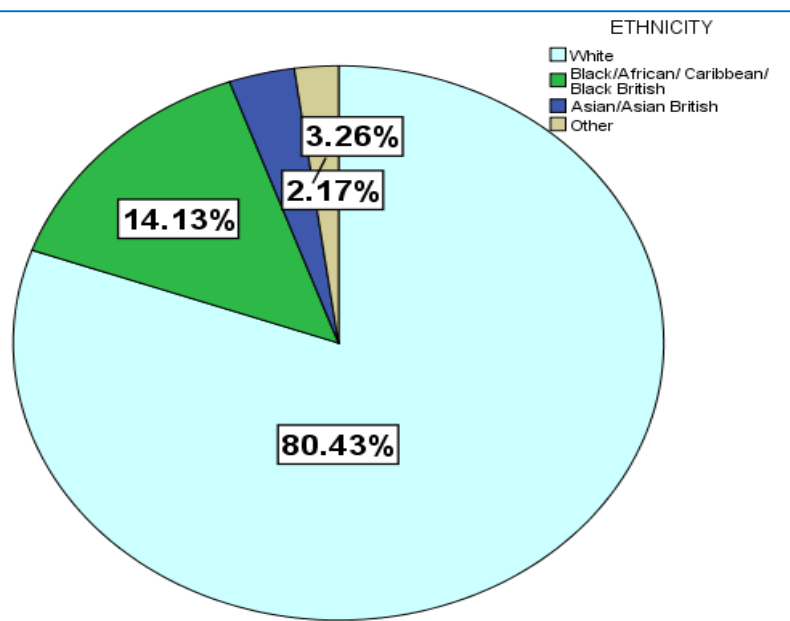
**67 Healthy  
Control Subjects**

# Demographic Data



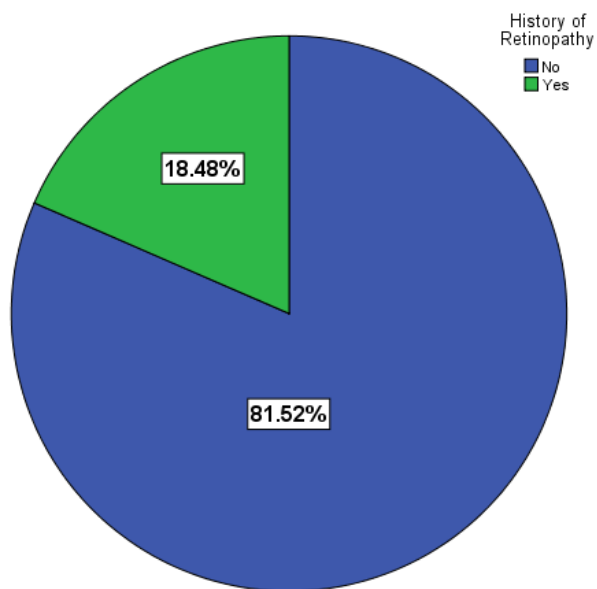
National Institute for  
Health Research

	Controls	T2DM Patients	
NUMBER	67	97	
GENDER (F/M) (% male)	26/41 (61%)	35/62 (63%)	
DURATION DIABETES	0	1.04 $\pm$ 0.07	
AGE (Years)	62 $\pm$ 14	63 $\pm$ 12	

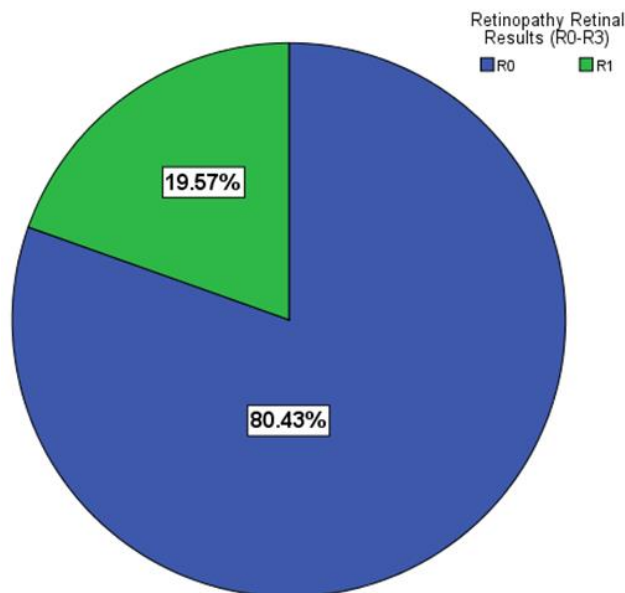


# Retinopathy

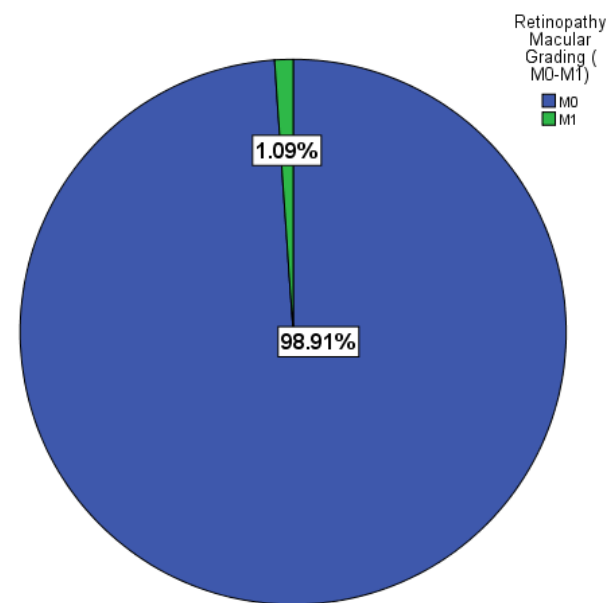
History of Retinopathy



Current Grade Retinopathy- R\*



Current Grade Retinopathy- M\*

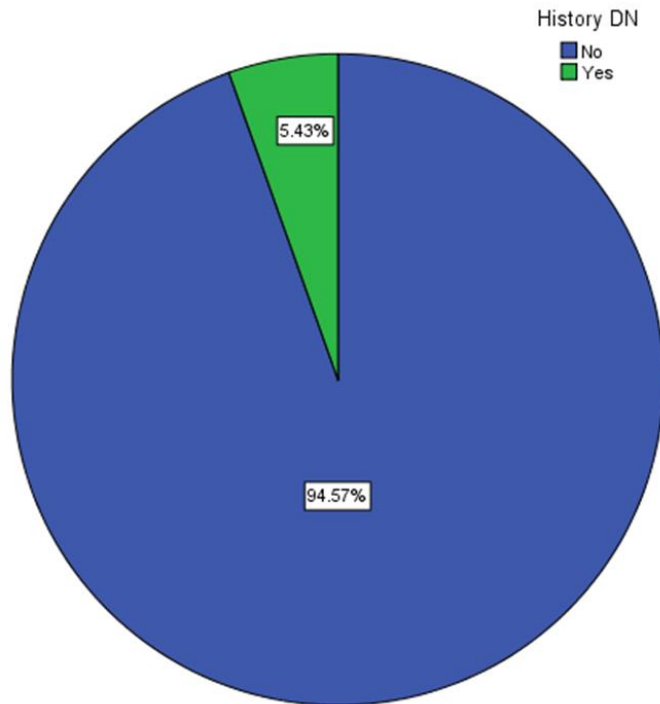


\*Classification based on Early Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS)

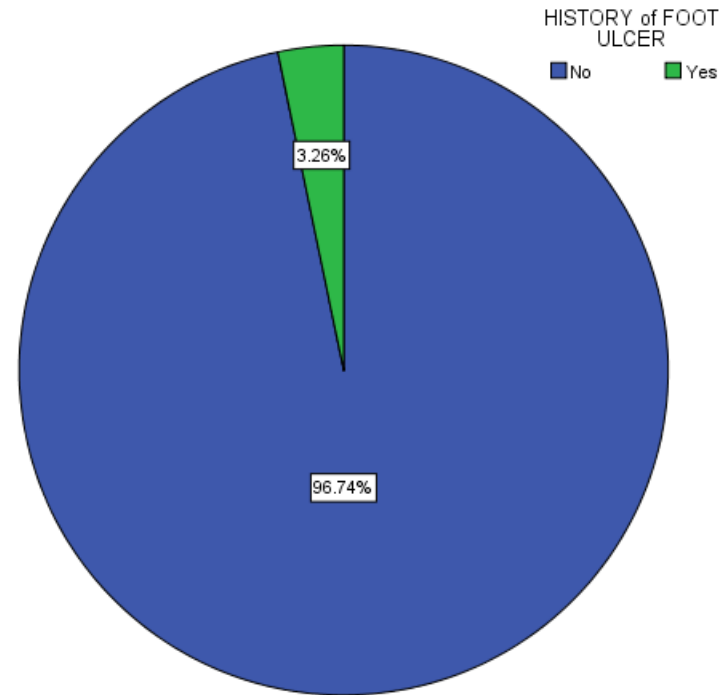


# History of DN & Foot

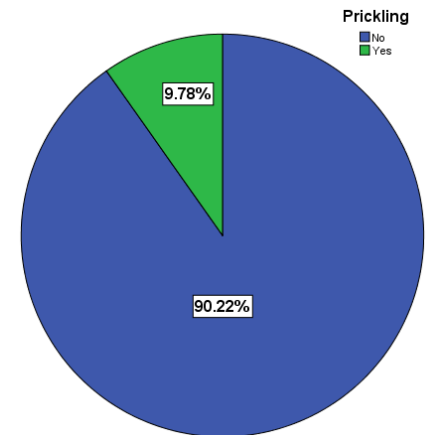
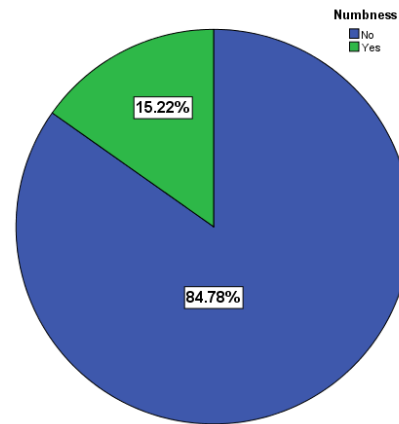
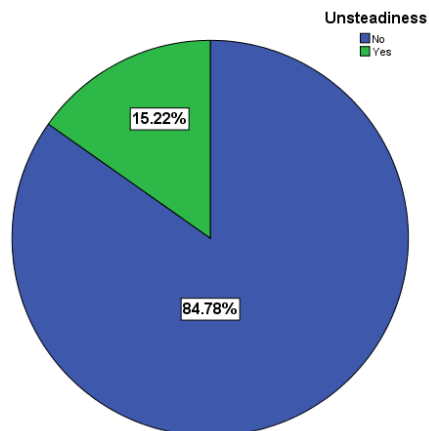
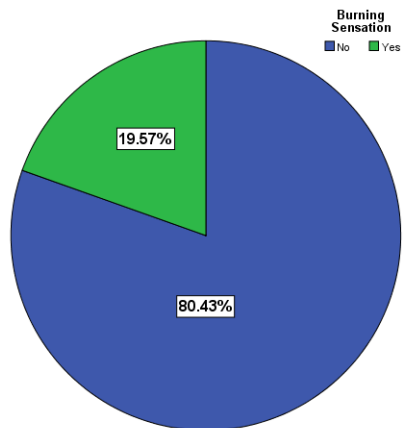
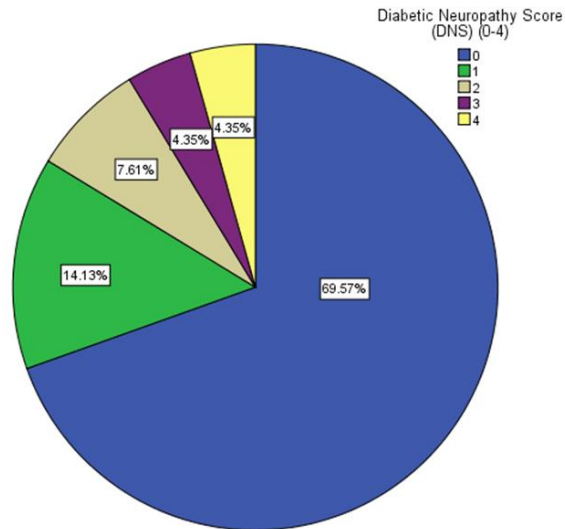
## History of Diabetic Neuropathy



## History of Foot Ulcer

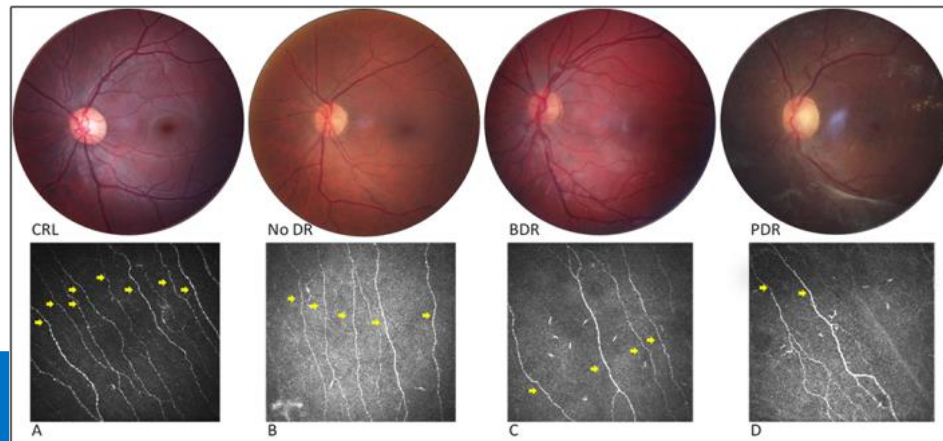


# Neuropathy Symptoms (DNS)

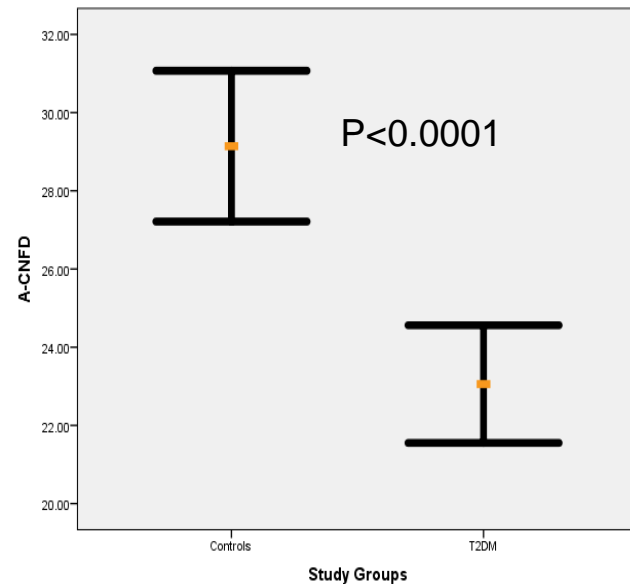


# CCM Results

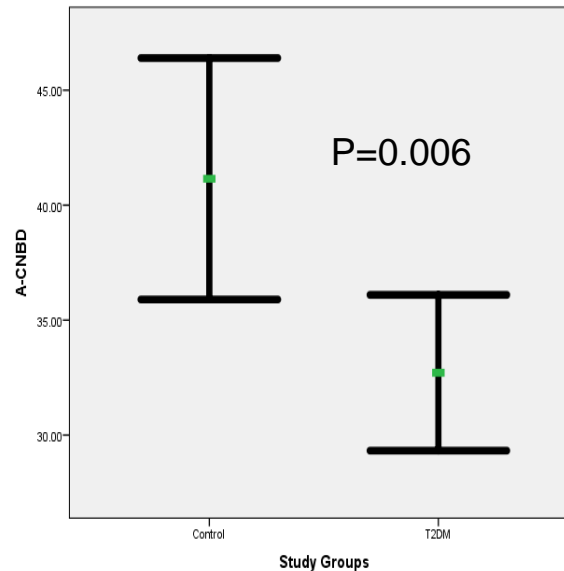
	Controls	Diabetes	P-Value
<b>A-CNFD (no/mm2)</b>	29.14 $\pm$ 6.81	23.83 $\pm$ 7.85	<0.0001
<b>A- CNBD (no/mm2)</b>	41.14 $\pm$ 18.56	33.42 $\pm$ 16.36	0.007
<b>A-CNFL (mm/mm2)</b>	17.40 $\pm$ 3.36	14.39 $\pm$ 3.34	<0.0001
<b>BEADING Pixel Size</b>	184.11 $\pm$ 4.49	237.59 $\pm$ 19.91	<0.0001



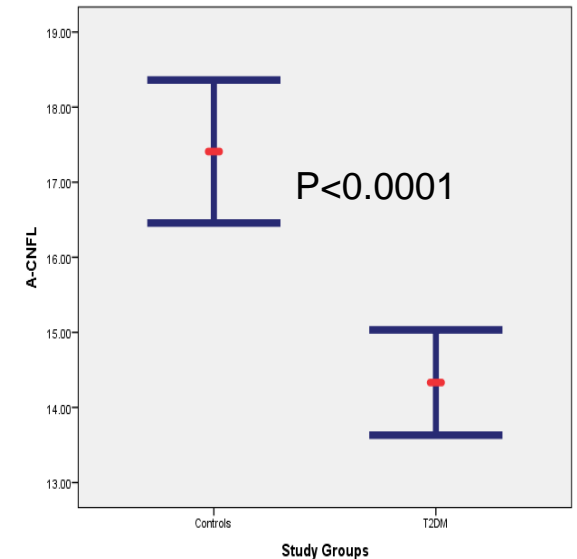
# Corneal Nerves



Corneal Nerve Fibre Density



Corneal Nerve Branch Density



Corneal Nerve Fibre Length



# Prevalence of Abnormality

- Percentages of CCM measures below the 2.5th percentile limit of normal in the diabetic and control groups studied

	Controls (No)	T2DM (No)	Percentage abnormal cases (%)
<b>A-CNFD</b>	1 (1.4%)	14	14.43%
<b>A-CNBD</b>	0	3	3.02%
<b>A-CNFL</b>	1	17	17.52%

# Lessons from other studies

Dan Ziegler,<sup>1,2</sup> Nikolaos Papanas,<sup>1</sup> Andrey Zhivov,<sup>3</sup> Stephan Allgeier,<sup>4</sup> Karsten Winter,<sup>5</sup> Iris Ziegler,<sup>1</sup> Jutta Brüggemann,<sup>1</sup> Alexander Strom,<sup>1</sup> Sabine Peschel,<sup>3</sup> Bernd Köhler,<sup>6</sup> Oliver Stachs,<sup>3</sup> Rudolf F. Guthoff,<sup>3</sup> and Michael Roden,<sup>1,2</sup> for the German Diabetes Study (GDS) Group\*

## Early Detection of Nerve Fiber Loss by Corneal Confocal Microscopy and Skin Biopsy in Recently Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes

*Diabetes* 2014;63:2454–2463 | DOI: 10.2337/db13-1819

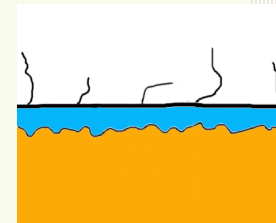
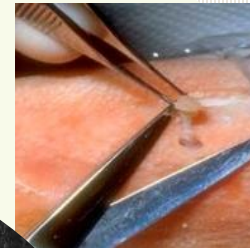
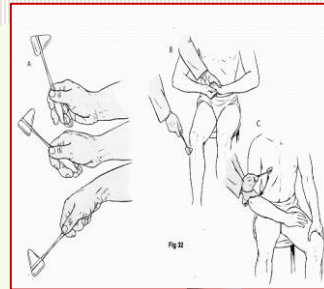
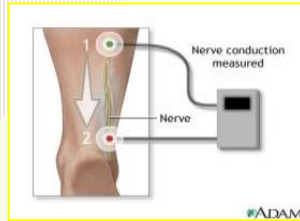
**Table 3—Percentages of CCM measures, IENFD, NCS, quantitative sensory testing, and cardiovascular autonomic nerve function tests below the 2.5th or above the 97.5th percentile limit of normal in the diabetic and control groups studied**

	Diabetic group, % (95% CI)	Control group, % (95% CI)	P value
CNFL	18.6 (12.0–26.9)	4.2 (0.8–12.5)	0.019
CNFL-MNF	17.4 (11.1–25.6)	6.3 (1.7–15.4)	0.111
CNFD	5.8 (2.3–11.8)	0	0.160
CNFD-MNF	20.9 (14.0–29.4)	6.3 (1.7–15.4)	0.027
CNBD	4.7 (1.6–10.3)	0	0.296

# Conclusion

- The level of neuropathy symptoms that reported by newly diagnosed T2DM patients was interestingly high.
- The prevalence of background retinopathy was considerably high.
- There was a significant level of small fibre damage at corneal nerves of this cohort of newly diagnosed T2DM.
- Corneal Confocal microscopy can detect neuropathy at early stages and be used as screening method.

***“We must learn to measure what we value rather than valuing what we can easily measure”. - Unknown***





*“I marvel that society would pay a surgeon a large sum of money to remove a person’s leg- but nothing to save it.”*

*- George Bernard Shaw*

**Thank You**