

Study Indicates the Potential Value of Optos' Widefield Retinal Imaging Technology in the Detection of Alzheimer's Disease

Optos plc (LSE: OPTS), a leading medical retinal imaging company, announced the results of twenty positive clinical studies at The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale May 1-4, 2011, including a study investigating the use of its retinal imaging technology to diagnose Alzheimer's Dementia in the eye.

A team of scientists led by Dr Tunde Peto, Moorfield's Eye Hospital, London, Dr Craig Ritchie, West London Mental Health NHS Trust, London, & Dr Imre Lengyel, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, London, captured optomap® retinal images of 102 subjects, of which 56 were Alzheimer's Dementia (AD) patients and 46 were age-matched controls. The primary purpose of the study was to determine whether a simple eye exam could be used to screen patients for AD. The screening test looks for drusen which are tiny yellow or white spots of extracellular material that build up in the retina of the eye.

Using Optos' ultra wide-field images, the study revealed a highly significant association between AD and peripheral small hard drusen formation, suggesting that monitoring the peripheral part of the retina might become a valuable tool in the detection and monitoring of the progression of AD.

Further work is being planned to investigate whether

peripheral small hard drusen can be shown to act as a surrogate marker for plaque development in the central nervous system.

Commenting on the results, Dr Ritchie, West London Mental Health NHS Trust said "It is crucial that we increase our ability to diagnose dementia effectively. With this simple detection method we are making a great step forward."

Dr Lengyel, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology said, "This is the first study to assess the periphery in Alzheimer's Dementia patients. The results are very positive and it is imperative we quickly progress to validate this method for use in early detection."

Roy Davis, CEO of Optos, said "This latest study adds to a growing body of clinical data that supports our conviction that the optomap has a crucial role to play in the detection and monitoring of a number of diseases. We will continue to develop the clinical evidence to support this and look forward to presenting further data in due course."

For more information, please contact Leslie Amodei, Director Global Marketing, at 508-787-1414.

Posted May 11, 2011.