

---

# THE DOCTOR WILL “SEE” YOU: VISUAL ASSESSMENT VIA TELEHEALTH

---

Melissa W. Ko, MD, FAAN, CPE

Indiana University School of Medicine

Associate Professor of Neurology & Ophthalmology



# DISCLOSURES

No relevant financial  
disclosures or  
conflicts of interest

---

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Current State and Needs of Telehealth for Visual Assessment



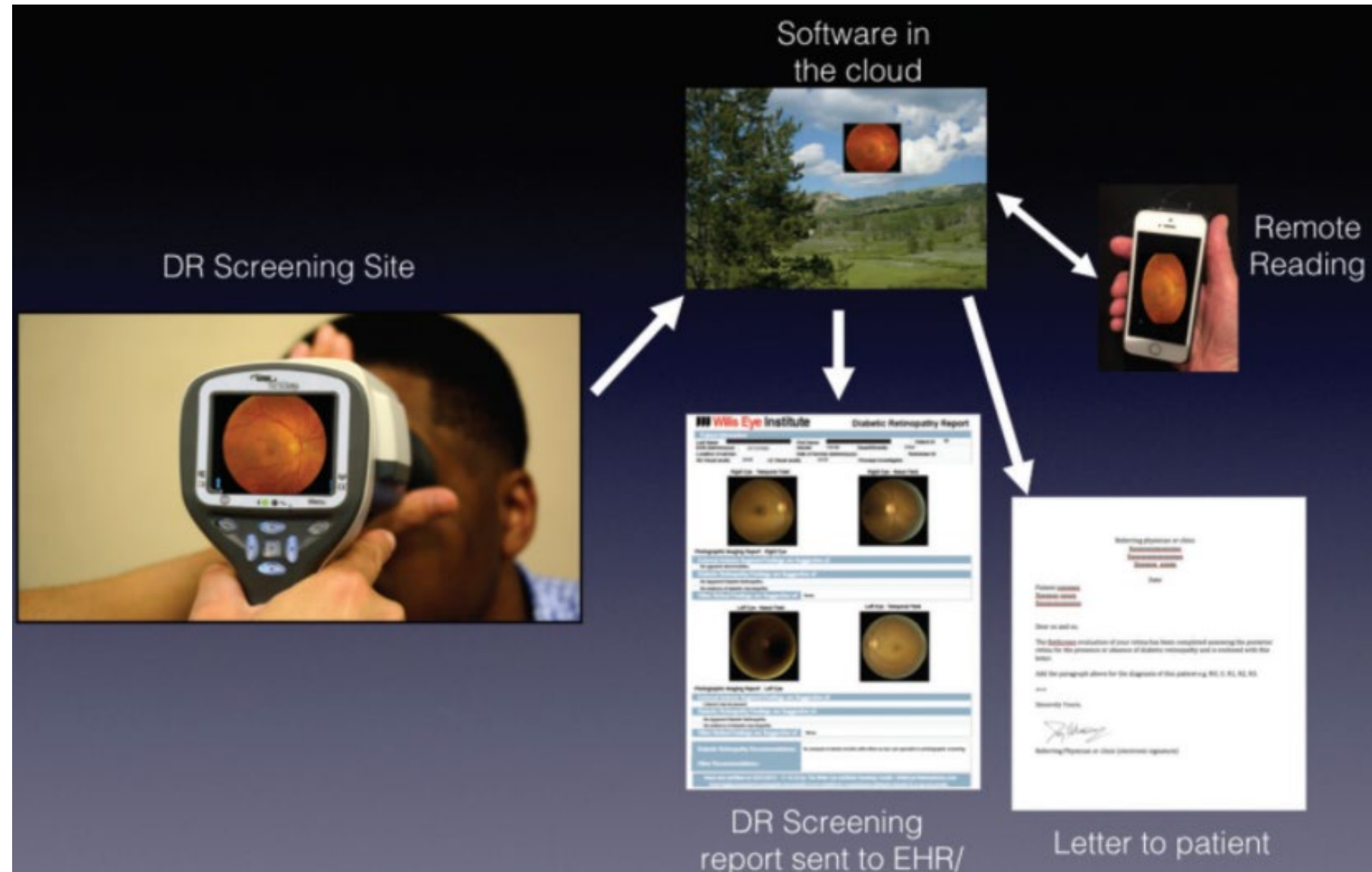
Current digital testing apps for:

Visual Acuity  
Visual Fields  
Eye Motility



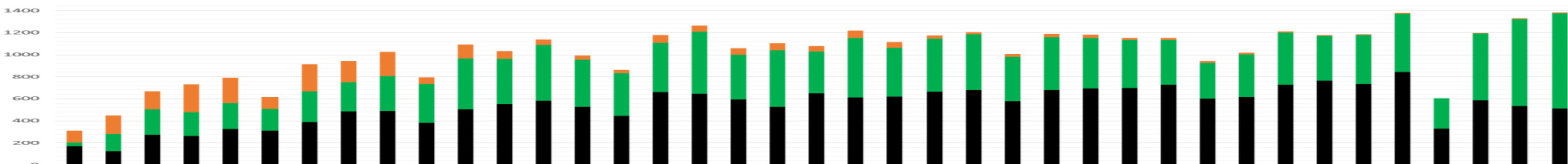
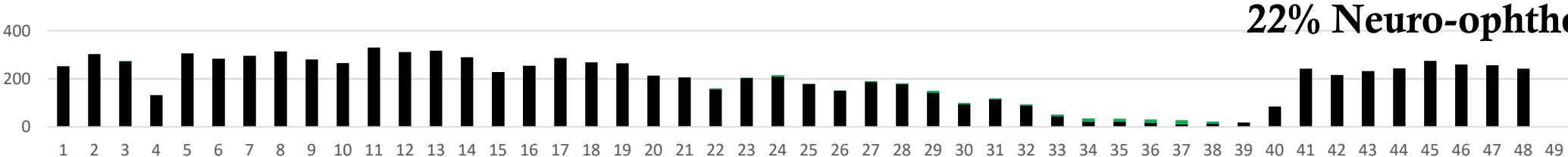
Future State of Telehealth and Visual Assessment

# TELE- OPHTHALMOLO GY-PRE-COVID

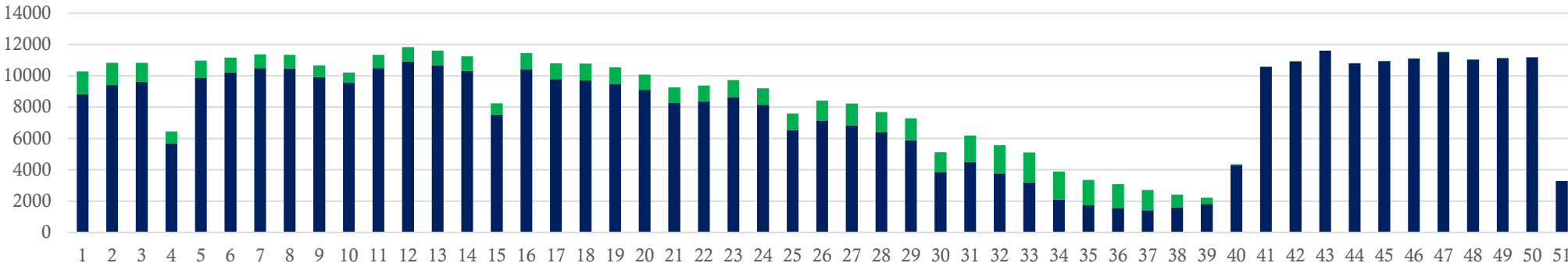


- <https://retinatoday.com/articles/2017-apr/telemedicine-in-ophthalmology>

# A Tertiary Academic Health System



All outpatient



Telemedicine Adoption Ophthalmology vs. Neurology vs. All outpatient Visits

1/2020-12/19/2020



## Medical/Professional Relations

[Adult Listings \(Part A\)](#)

[Childhood Listings  
\(Part B\)](#)

[General Information](#)

[Evidentiary  
Requirements](#)

[Listing of Impairments  
\(overview\)](#)

[Disability Claims  
Process Video Series](#)

[Revisions to Rules  
Regarding the  
Evaluation of Medical  
Evidence](#)

## Disability Evaluation Under Social Security

### 2.00 Special Senses and Speech - Adult

#### Section

#### 2.00 Special Senses and Speech

##### *A. How do we evaluate visual disorders?*

#### **2.01**

Category of  
Impairments,  
Special Senses  
and Speech

**1. What are visual disorders?** Visual disorders are abnormalities of the eye, the optic nerve, the optic tracts, or the brain that may cause a loss of visual acuity or visual fields. A loss of visual acuity limits your ability to distinguish detail, read, or do fine work. A loss of visual fields limits your ability to perceive visual stimuli in the peripheral extent of vision.

#### **2.02**

Loss of Central  
visual acuity

**2. How do we define statutory blindness?** Statutory blindness is blindness as defined in sections 216(i)(1) and 1614(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (Act).

#### **2.03**

Contraction of  
the visual fields  
in the better eye

a. The Act defines blindness as central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. We use your best-corrected central visual acuity for distance in the better eye when we determine if this definition is met. (For visual acuity testing requirements, see [2.00A5](#).)

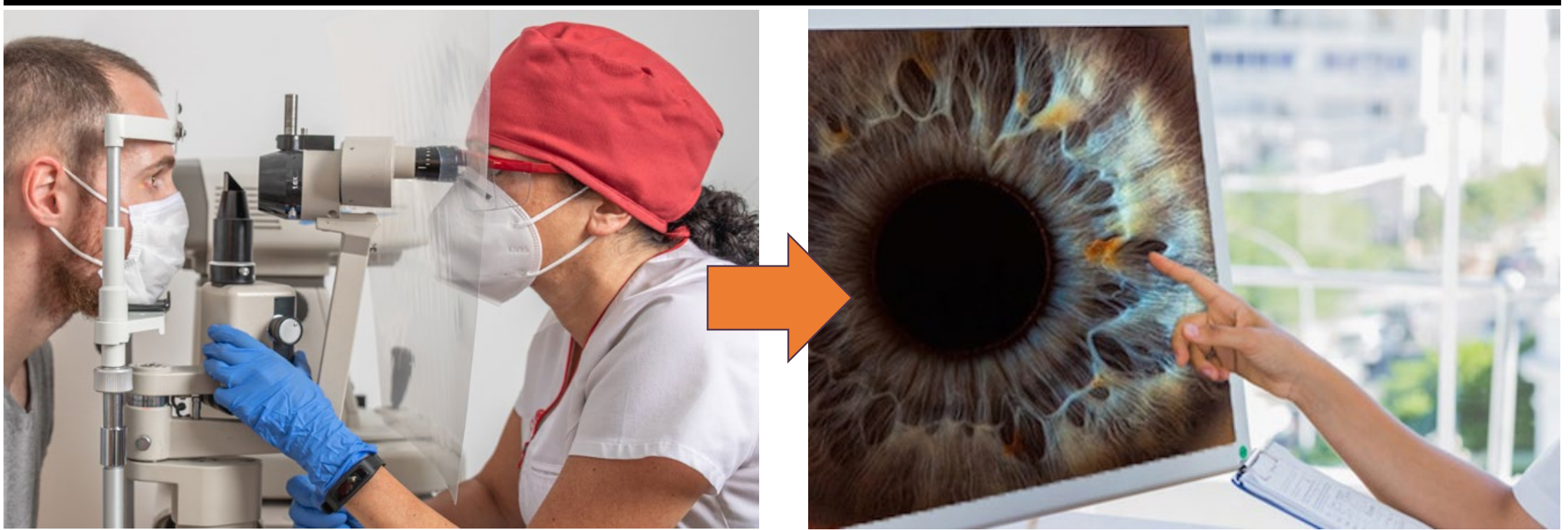
#### **2.04**

Loss of visual

b. The Act also provides that an eye that has a visual field limitation such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees is considered as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or







*HOW DO WE TRANSLATE VISION  
TESTING **TO** A VIRTUAL  
ENVIRONMENT?*

---

# VISION APPS ABOUND, BUT...

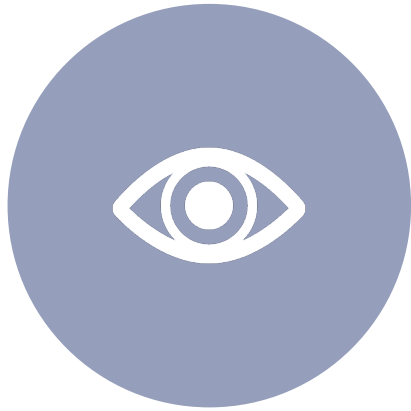
- Android (270+ apps) and iOS (170+ apps): Most ***not*** suitable for ophthalmic/neuro-ophthalmic telehealth exam
- **Extremely limited clinical validation**





---

# VISION APP CATEGORIES AVAILABLE



VISUAL ACUITY  
(NEAR/DISTANCE)



VISUAL FIELDS



EFFERENT  
EXAMINATION

---

---

IS THE VISION APP....

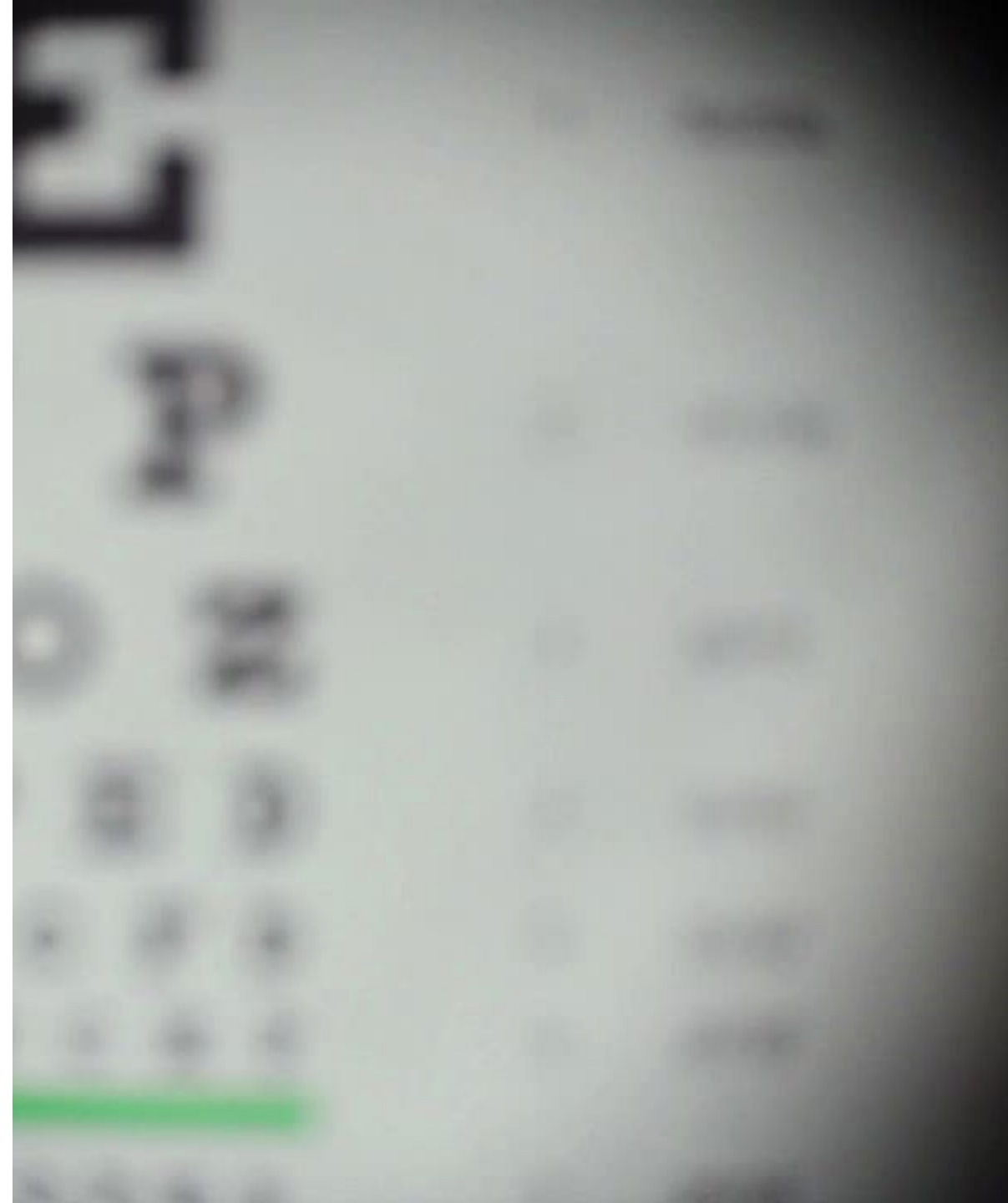
**CHARACTERIZED?**

THE DESIGNED APP IS  
REPRODUCIBLE IN EACH DEVICE

**CLINICALLY VALIDATED?**

APP MEASURES IN A COMPARABLE  
MANNER TO MEASURES OBTAINED  
W/ GOLD STANDARD

---



---

# THE PERFECT VISUAL TESTING APP?

Characterization and Validation on different operating system devices

Easily accessible, affordable, and available to patients

Self-administered

---

## A detailed close-up of a phoropter, showing its various lenses, dials, and adjustment mechanisms. The device is black and silver, with multiple circular lenses and dials for adjusting vision. A large white 'R' and 'N' are overlaid on the left side of the image.

## Visual Acuity Testing for Telehealth Using Mobile Applications

Benjamin J. Steren, BA; Benjamin Young, MD; Jessica Chow, MD

Apps were downloaded if they were:

- Free
- In English
- NOT in the category of “entertainment” or “eyeworkouts”

Inclusion of app in analysis: stated the distance to hold the device to measure visual acuity

**IMPORTANCE** The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic illustrates the increasingly important role of telemedicine as a method of clinician-patient interaction. However, electronic applications (apps) for the testing of ophthalmology vital signs, such as visual acuity, can be published and used without any verification of accuracy, validity, or reliability.

**OBJECTIVE** To reassess the accuracy of visual acuity-testing apps and assess their viability for telehealth.

**DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS** The US Apple App Store was queried for apps for visual acuity testing. Anticipated optotype size for various visual acuity lines were calculated and compared against the actual measured optotype size on 4 different Apple hardware devices. No human participants were part of this study.

**MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES** Mean (SD) errors were calculated per device and across multiple devices.

**RESULTS** On iPhones, 10 apps met inclusion criteria, with mean errors ranging from 0.2% to 109.9%. On the iPads, 9 apps met inclusion criteria, with mean errors ranging from 0.2% to 398.1%. Six apps met criteria and worked on both iPhone and iPad, with mean errors from 0.2% to 249.5%. Of the 6 apps that worked across devices, the top 3 most accurate apps were Visual Acuity Charts (mean [SD] error, 0.2% [0.0%]), Kay iSight Test Professional (mean [SD] error, 3.5% [0.7%]), and Smart Optometry (mean [SD] error, 15.9% [4.3%]). None of the apps tested were ideal for telemedicine, because some apps displayed accurate optotype size, while others displayed the same letters on separate devices; no apps exhibited both characteristics.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** Both Visual Acuity Charts and Kay iSight Test Professional had low mean (SD) errors and functionality across all tested devices, but no apps were suitable for telemedicine. This suggests that new and/or improved visual acuity-testing apps are necessary for optimal telemedicine use.

JAMA Ophthalmol. 2021;139(3):344-347. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2020.6177  
Published online January 14, 2021.

[Invited Commentary page 347](#)

**Author Affiliations:** Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.

**Corresponding Author:** Jessica Chow, MD, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Yale University School of Medicine, 40 Temple St, Ste 1B, New Haven, CT

---

Table. Applications (Apps) With Functionality Across the iPhone and iPad

| App name                     | App version | Publisher                   | Distance, cm | Average mean (SD) error, % |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Visual Acuity Charts         | 2.5         | Zijian Huang                | 400          | 0.20 (0.00)                |
| Kay iSight Test Professional | 2.1         | Kay Pictures Limited        | 40           | 3.50 (0.70)                |
| Smart Optometry              | 4.0         | Smart Optometry DOO         | 40           | 15.90 (4.30)               |
| EyeTesterFree                | 1.5         | FISP Precision Co Ltd       | 100          | 18.90 (13.30)              |
| Eye Handbook                 | 8.2.12      | Cloud Nine Development, LLC | 35           | 28.00 (27.40)              |
| Vision Scan Lite             | 1.3         | Cygnnet Infotech, LLC       | 60.96        | 249.50 (130.80)            |

---

# VISUAL ACUITY APPS: NEAR VISION TESTING

---

## KAY ISIGHT TEST PRO

First Month Free, then by paid subscription Service



Works on iPhone or iPad

Self Administer

Tests between 20/250 down to 20/10

Optotypes for children available

3 meters/~10 feet

---



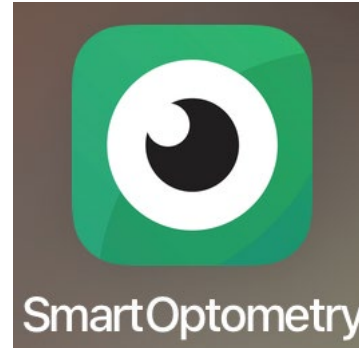


# VISUAL ACUITY APPS: NEAR VISION TESTING

---

## SMART OPTOMETRY

Iphone/iPad



Free version only  
optotype choices of  
Landolt C's or  
Tumbling E's

Testing at 40 cm (15.7  
in)

SELECT OPTOTYPE



## Eye Handbook



**EHB**

Lord, Shah, Krishna. Mo Med (2013)

### Benefits

- All-in-one App (VA, Amsler, Ishihara, Red Sat., Peds)
- Available on Android and iOS
- Free
- Self administration, near at 36 cm (1 ft. 2 in)

### Caveats

- Overestimates near VA (0.11 LogMAR or 1-line Snellen).
  - Tofig et al., Eye (2015).
- iOS optotypes consistent, but *Android are randomized.*

---

---

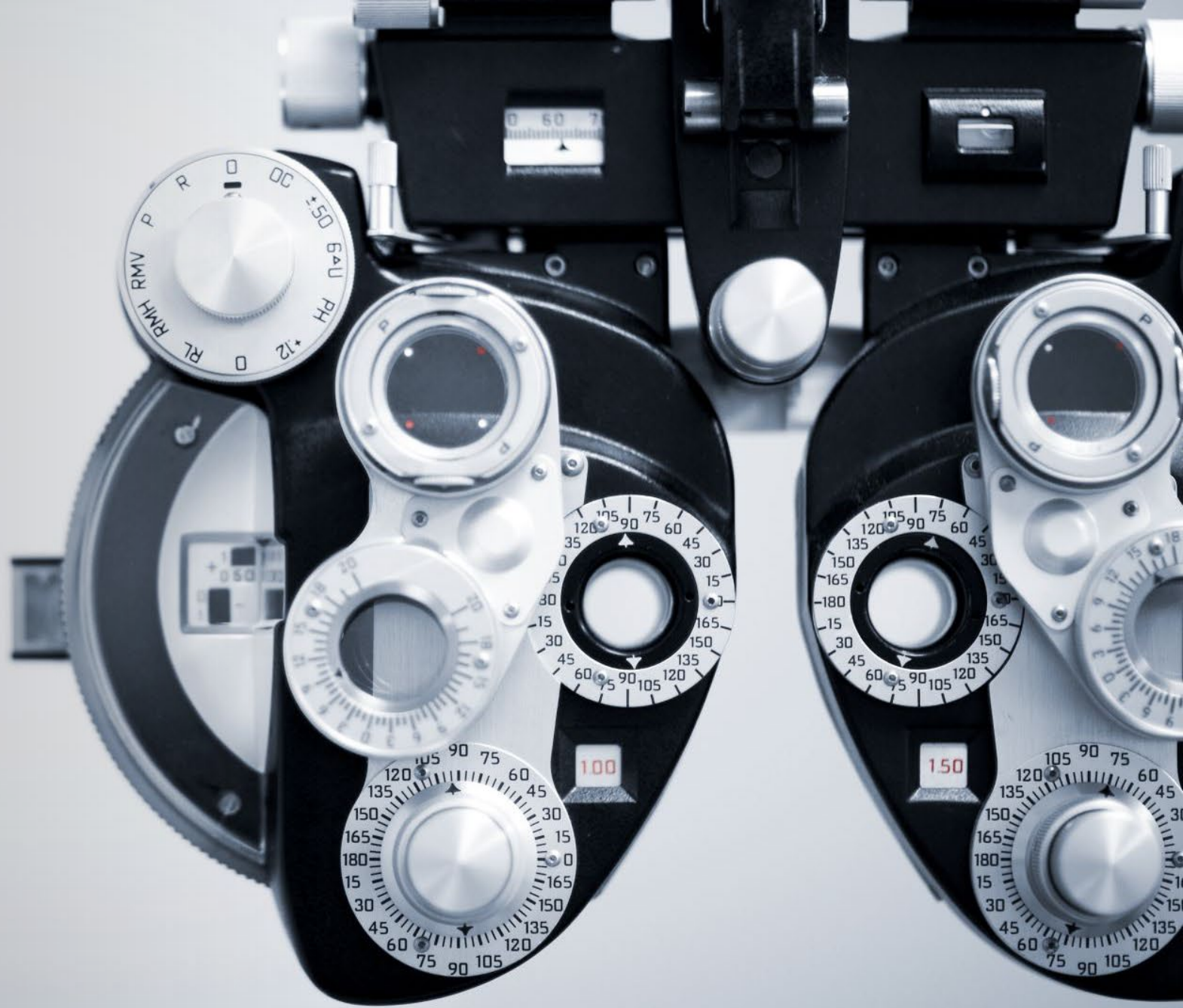
**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** Both Visual Acuity Charts and Kay iSight Test Professional had low mean (SD) errors and functionality across all tested devices, but no apps were suitable for telemedicine. This suggests that new and/or improved visual acuity-testing apps are necessary for optimal telemedicine use.

*JAMA Ophthalmol.* 2021;139(3):344-347. doi:[10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2020.6177](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2020.6177)

Published online January 14, 2021.

---

# VISUAL ACUITY FOR DISTANCE VISION TESTING



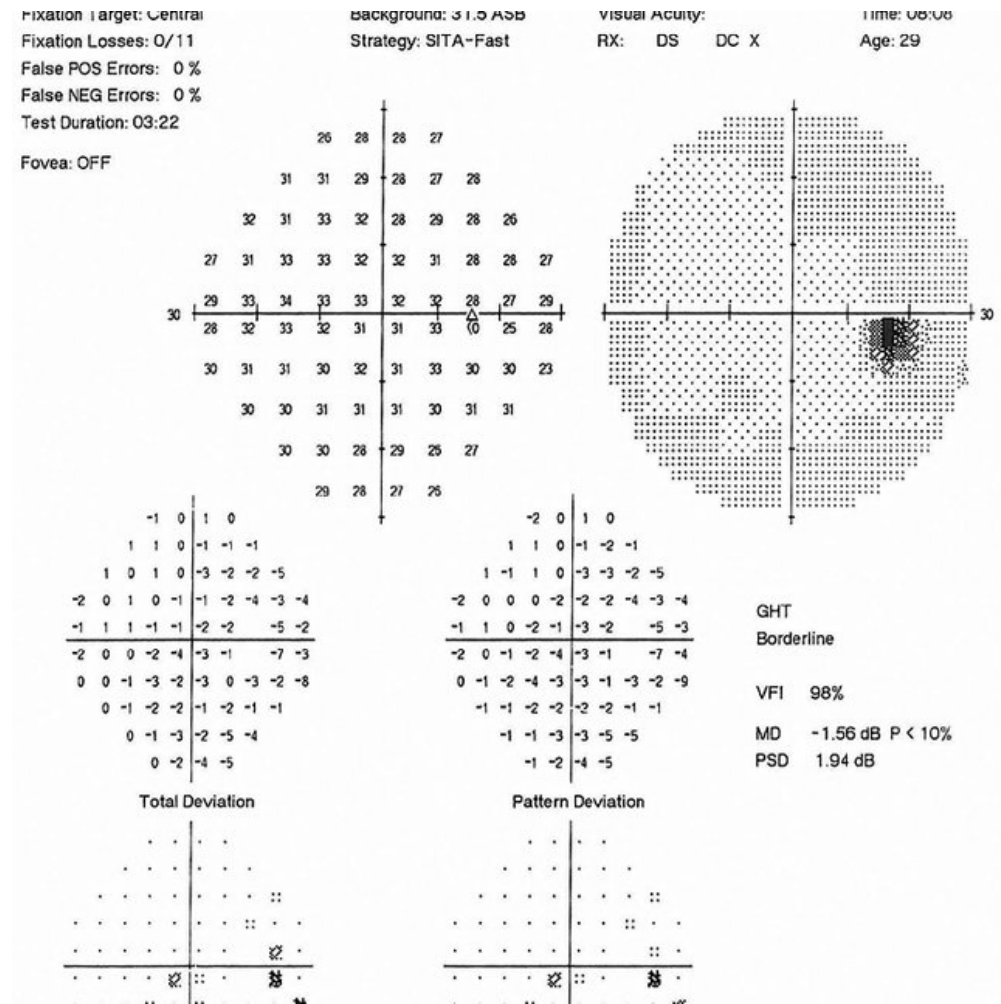
---

# DISTANCE VISUAL ACUITY

- AAO has printable Snellen charts for adults and Tumbling E's for children on their website, read at 10 ft.
- Mailing chart to patient may be the best option – work with a professional printing company.



# PERIPHERAL VISION TESTING



# VISUAL FIELD TESTING AT HOME: "MELBOURNE RAPID FIELDS"

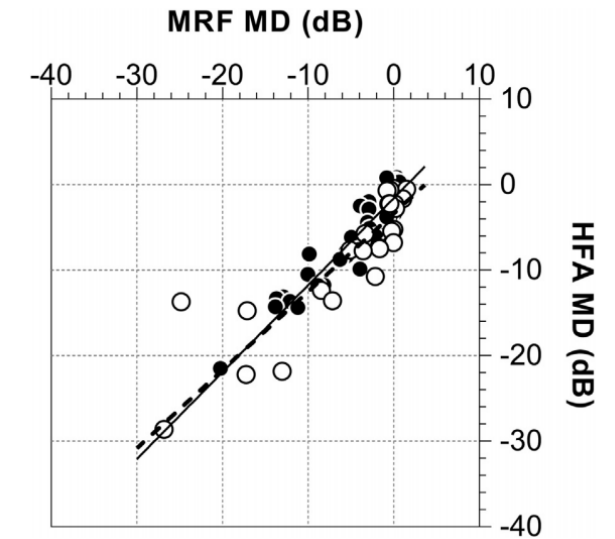
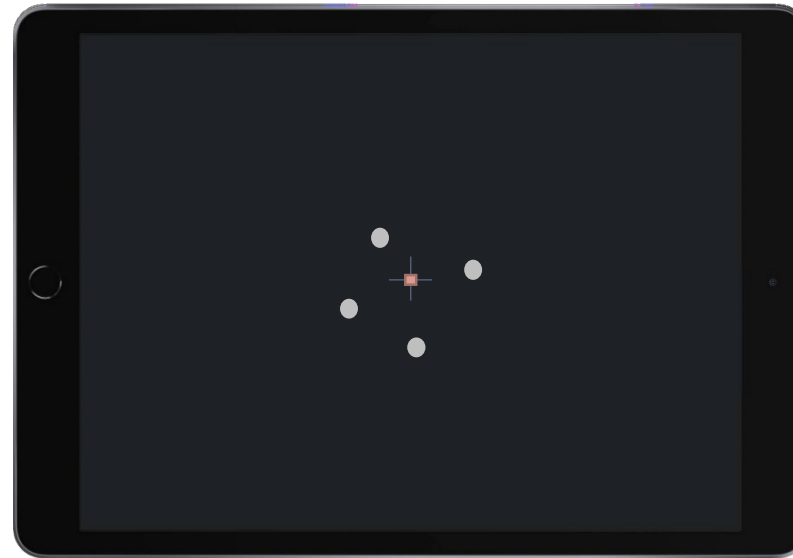
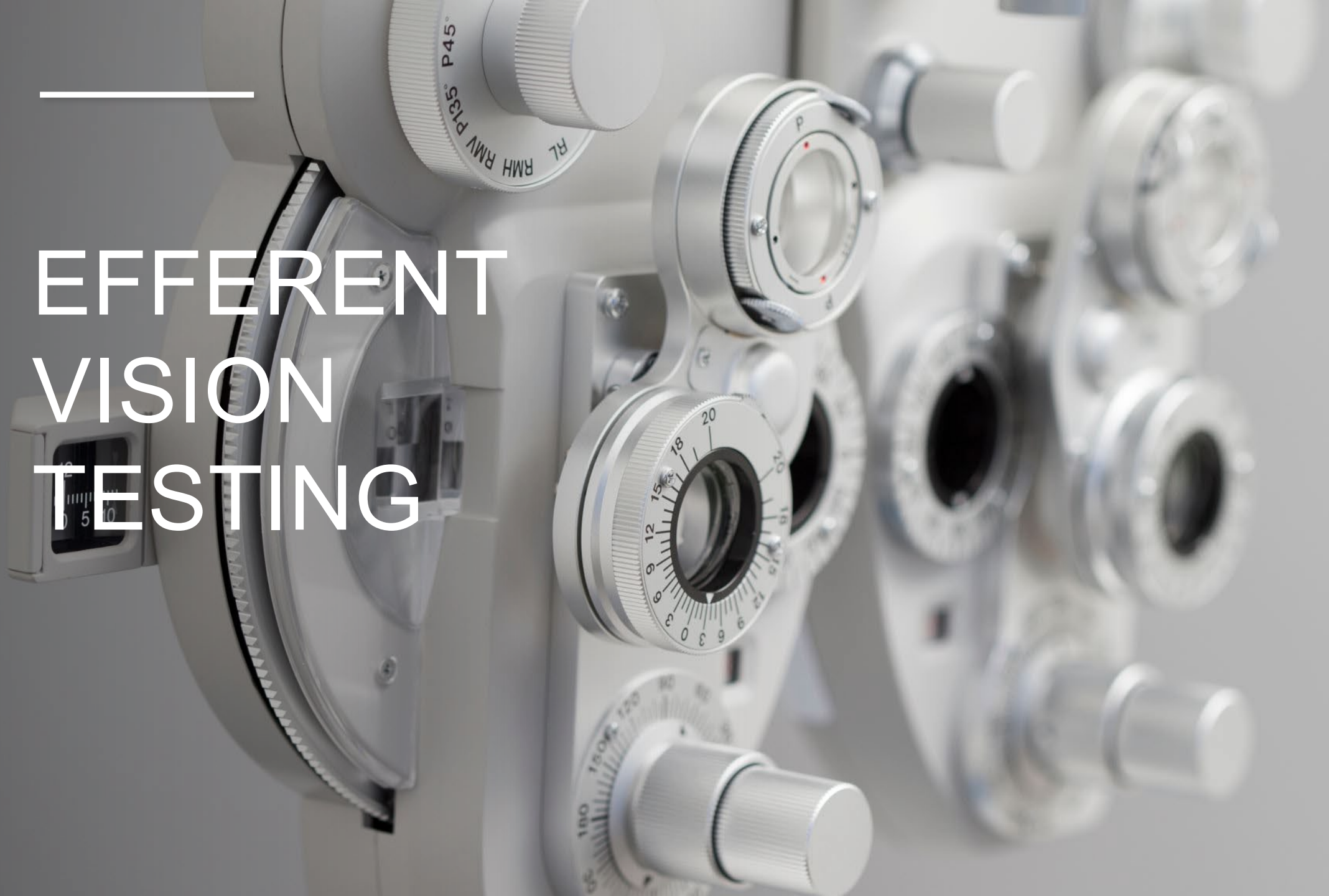


FIGURE 4. Association between the Humphrey Field Analyzer mean deviation (MD) and the corrected Melbourne Rapid Fields MD averaged over all tests that the patient attended. Unfilled circles (dotted line) show SITA-fast data and filled circles (black line) show SITA-standard. Regression lines are as follows: SITA-fast,  $y = 0.92 \pm 0.11 \cdot x - 3.4 \pm 1.0$ ; SITA-standard:  $y = 1.00 \pm 0.07 \cdot x - 1.6 \pm 0.5$ .



---

# EFFERENT VISION TESTING

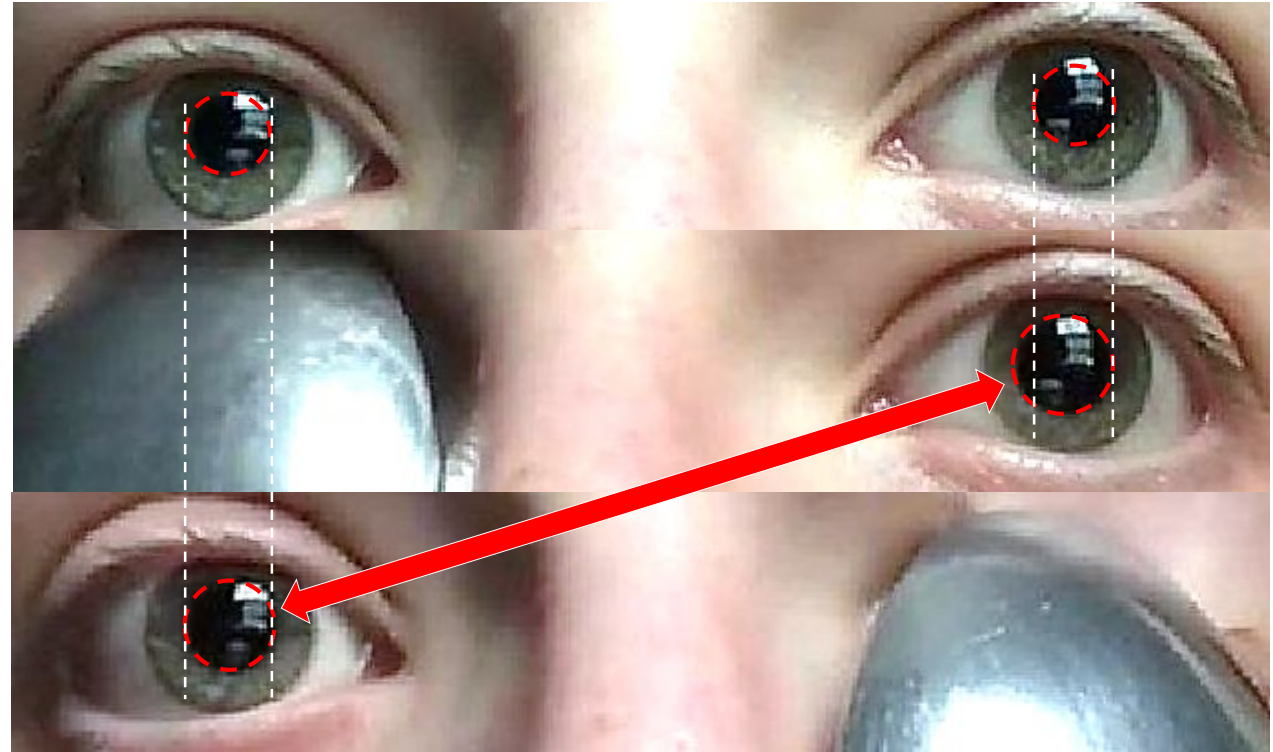


# EFFERENT TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

---

- Absent freely available, practical & validated apps for efferent testing: pupillary reflex, ocular position, or eye movements.
- RAPD can be detected in daylight if the other pupil is covered (dark).
- Difference = Kestenbaum Pupil Number (KPN)

## RAPD Testing in Telemedicine



**25 yo with Left Optic Atrophy**

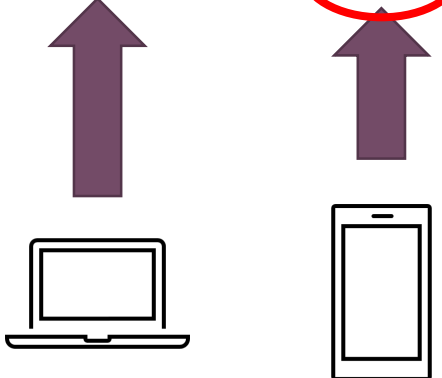
# EFFERENT EXAM TIPS

---

- **Warning:** Teleconference apps are not designed for evaluating quick eye movements: 30 frames per second (fps) max!
- Tip: Improve lighting. Patients should use their higher quality smart phone cameras instead of laptop or desktop webcams.
- Slow eye movements can be seen: static binocular gaze misalignment, gaze palsies, convergence or divergence insufficiencies.
- Eye Movements that **may** require faster video: saccadic slowing, INOs, dysmetria, intrusions, nystagmus, saccadic pursuit and abnormal VOR suppression.

## Zoom Control Panel - Statistics

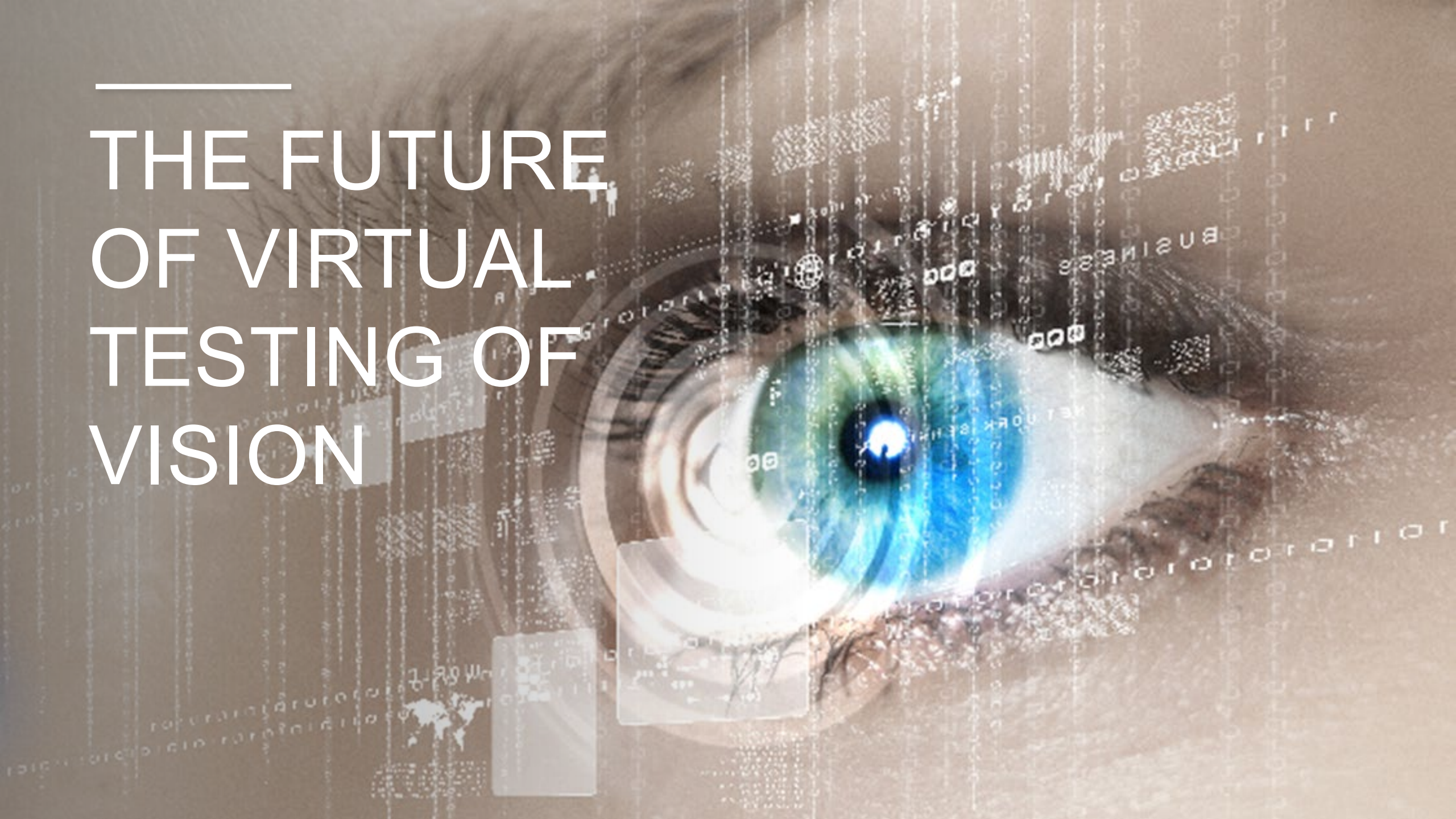
| Overall Audio Video Screen Sharing |             |             |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Item name                          | Send        | Receive     |  |
| Latency                            | 19 ms       | 18 ms       |  |
| Jitter                             | 3 ms        | 0 ms        |  |
| Packet loss - Avg(Max)             | 0.0% (0.0%) | 0.0% (0.0%) |  |
| Resolution                         | 640x360     | 480x640     |  |
| <u>Frame Per Second</u>            | 23 fps      | 29 fps      |  |





---

# THE FUTURE OF VIRTUAL TESTING OF VISION



# VIRTUAL FIELDS HEAD MOUNTED DEVICES



## ORIGINAL STUDY

### Preliminary Report on a Novel Virtual Reality Perimeter Compared With Standard Automated Perimetry

Reza Razeghinejad, MD,\* Alberto Gonzalez-Garcia, MD,†  
Jonathan S. Myers, MD,\* and L. Jay Katz, MD\*

**Precis:** The VisuALL head-mounted perimetry in normal subjects and glaucoma patients had a moderate to strong correlation with the Humphrey Field Analyzer (HFA).

**Purpose:** Visual field testing has a vital role in diagnosing and managing glaucoma. The current clinical practice relies on large, table-based testing units. This study investigated the performance of a novel virtual reality head-mounted visual perimetry device (VisuALL), in normal and glaucoma patients.

**Methods:** This prospective observational study was conducted on 50 eyes of 25 healthy subjects (normal group) and 52 eyes of 26 patients with a controlled mild or moderate stage of glaucoma (glaucoma group). All participants had visual field testing with VisuALL and the HFA (24-2, Swedish Interactive Threshold Algorithm). The mean sensitivity of the whole visual field and each quadrant were compared between both machines and the receiver operating characteristic was used to compare the diagnostic abilities and the Bland-Altman plot to evaluate the agreement of the 2 perimeters.

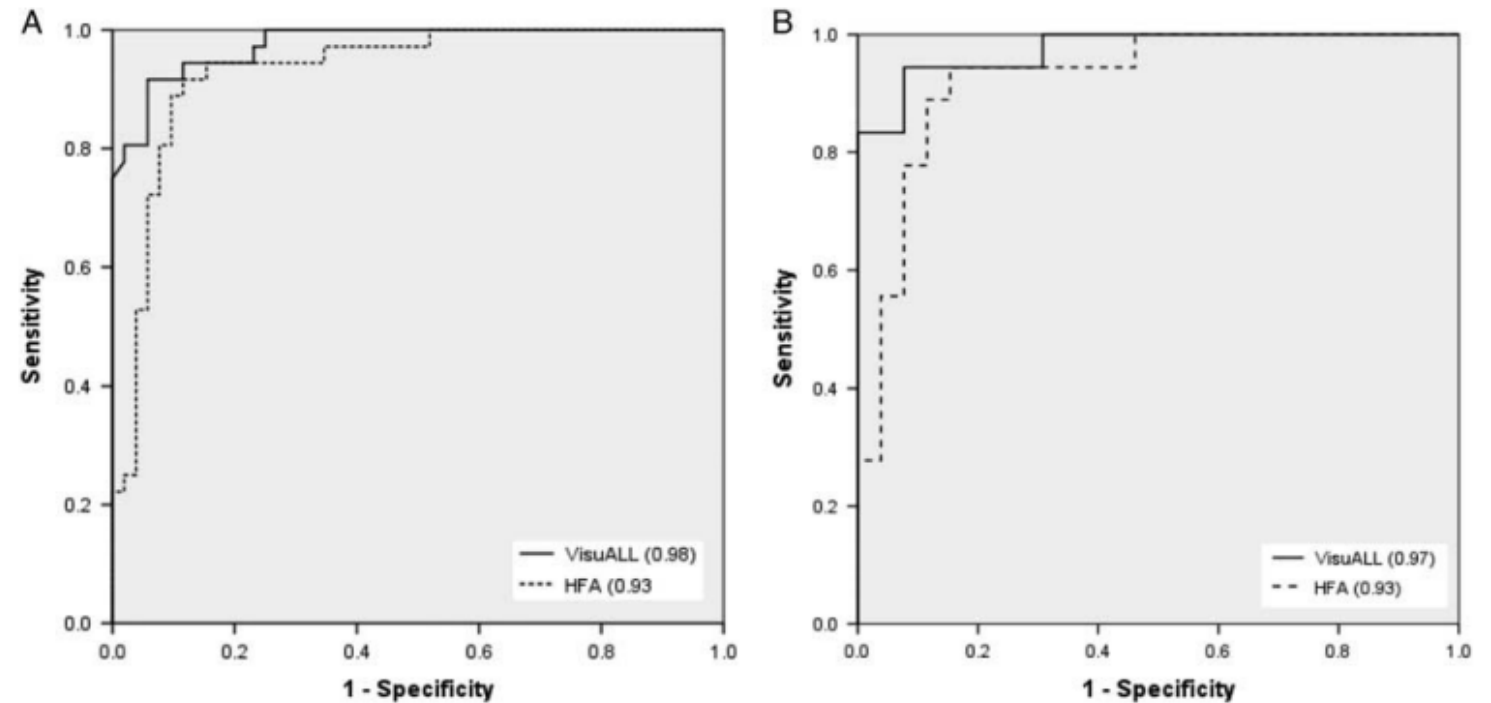
**Results:** The global mean sensitivity of the VisuALL and the HFA correlated significantly in both normal ( $r=0.5$ ,  $P=0.001$ ) and glaucoma ( $r=0.8$ ,  $P<0.001$ ) groups. The mean sensitivity of all quadrants also correlated significantly in both groups. The VisuALL mean sensitivity had a greater (0.98) receiver operating characteristic curve than HFA (0.93) mean sensitivity ( $P=0.06$ ) in discriminating normal versus glaucoma.

**Conclusion:** There was an excellent correlation between the VisuALL and the Standard Automated Perimetry in normal and glaucoma patients and VisuALL showing high diagnostic performance.

commonly used clinical tool for characterizing the level of visual loss of glaucoma and neurological diseases and for detecting the disease progression.<sup>1</sup>

The SAP requires maintenance of constant fixation for several minutes and conscious decision making in identification of near the threshold level stimuli.<sup>2-3</sup> In addition, it has a number of disadvantages including being stressful for debilitated, claustrophobic, ill, or elderly patients to keep their heads still in the perimeter bowl during the test. Patients with musculoskeletal problems and admitted patients in the hospital that are not able to position their head in the proper position for visual field testing may have unreliable, artifact laden results or be unable to take the test.

Several devices have been developed since the advent of the HFA and the Octopus perimeters, in an effort to improve the detection of visual field defects and make the test easier for patients.<sup>4-6</sup> Examples include the use of laptops and iPads.<sup>7-9</sup> These modalities bring portability, but lack of fixation monitoring methods and hardware standardization have been the limiting factors in their widespread use. In addition, specificity and sensitivity studies have been mixed.<sup>7,8,10,11</sup> The majority of these devices are composed of a head-mounted device (HMD) controlled by a laptop or a tablet.<sup>8,12</sup> The size and cost of current tabletop perimeters limit their use in screening efforts as well as clinical care in remote and rural settings. HMD perimeters may allow in-office, remote, and home visual field testing owing to their lower cost and portability and could promote a change in



**FIGURE 3.** Receiver operating characteristic curve of the mean sensitivity of VisuALL and Humphrey Visual Field in both (A) and right eyes (B). HFA indicates Humphrey Field Analyzer.

VisuALL ROC = 0.98

HFA ROC=0.93



---

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Artificial Intelligence to Detect Papilledema from Ocular Fundus Photographs

Dan Milea, M.D., Ph.D., Raymond P. Najjar, Ph.D., Zubo Jiang, M.Sc., Daniel Ting, M.D., Ph.D., Caroline Vasseneix, M.D., Xinxing Xu, Ph.D., Masoud Aghsaei Fard, M.D., Pedro Fonseca, M.D., Kavin Vanikieti, M.D., Wolf A. Lagrèze, M.D., Chiara La Morgia, M.D., Ph.D., Carol Y. Cheung, Ph.D., et al., for the BONSAI Group\*

---

Article

Figures/Media

Metrics

39 References 82 Citing Articles

## Abstract

### BACKGROUND

Nonophthalmologist physicians do not confidently perform direct ophthalmoscopy. The use of artificial intelligence to detect papilledema and other optic-disk abnormalities from fundus photographs has not been well studied.

---

April 30, 2020

N Engl J Med 2020; 382:1687-1695

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1917130

Chinese Translation 中文翻译

---

### Related Articles

---

EDITORIAL APR 30, 2020

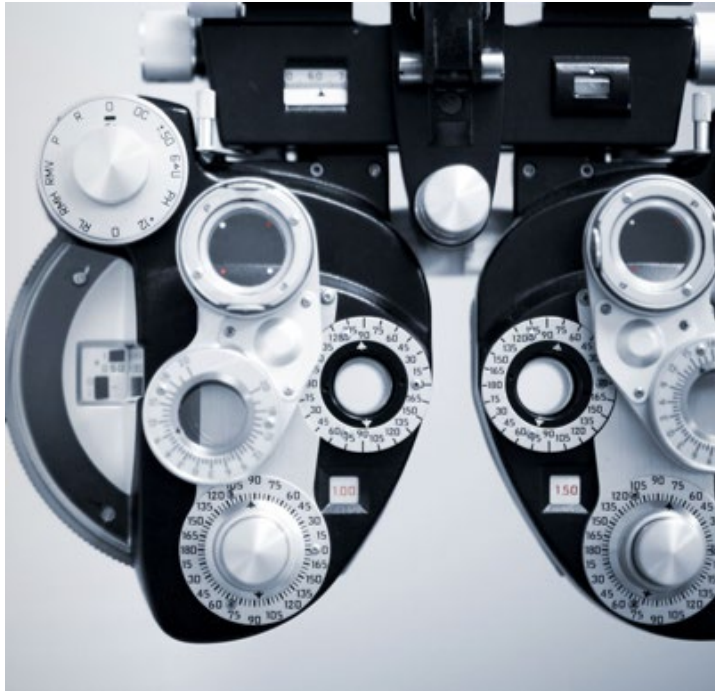
AI for the Eye — Automated Assistance for Clinician Screening for Papilledema

I. Kohane

---

---

# TAKEAWAYS



- **Eye Handbook is validated**, free/easy to use, but slightly **over-estimates visual**, may lead to false negative test results.
  - **Kay iSight**, low error rate, easy to use, initially free, but test letters randomize with each use
  - **MRF Visual Fields** is validated, now a cloud-based **web application** (Eyesimplify.com, M&S Tech).  
Use with **reliable patients and iPad browsers**.
  - Teleconference video quality is lacking to assess fast eye movements: improve with **bright diffuse lighting, cell phone cameras** (not laptop/webcam)
-



---

# WHAT IS STILL NEEDED?



Validated, practical, easy to use and affordable/free visual testing applications for patients to use from home



No existing studies that compare vision app vs app in telehealth environment



Home based VR Goggles interesting alternative to tablet-based VF testing (affordability?)



Fast paced upgrades in visual testing tech requires flexible infrastructure in disability evaluation to accommodate rapid changes

---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- **Linus Sun**

- **Indiana University**

- Devin Mackay
- Kevin Lai

- **Cornell**

- Marc Dinkin
- Cristiano Oliveira

- **UCSF**

- Nailyn Rasool
- Christopher Johnson

## **NYU**

Neil Busis

Janet Rucker

Laura Balcer

Steve Galetta

Scott Grossman

## **Columbia**

Jackson Scharf

Jeffrey G. Odel

## **Stanford**

Heather Moss

---

# RESOURCES

- Lai KE, Ko MW, Rucker JC, Odel JG, Sun LD, Wings KM, Ghosh A, Bindiganavile SH, Bhat N, Wendt SP, Scharf JM, Dinkin MJ, Rasool N, Galetta SL, Lee AG. Tele-Neuro-Ophthalmology During the Age of COVID-19. J Neuroophthalmol. 2020 Sep;40(3):292-304. doi: 10.1097/WNO.0000000000001024. PMID: 32604249; PMCID: PMC7418186.
- Mena-Guevara KJ, Piñero DP, de Fez D. Validation of Digital Applications for Evaluation of Visual Parameters: A Narrative Review. Vision (Basel). 2021 Nov 24;5(4):58. doi: 10.3390/vision5040058. PMID: 34842847; PMCID: PMC8628957.
- Steren BJ, Young B, Chow J. Visual Acuity Testing for Telehealth Using Mobile Applications. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2021 Mar 1;139(3):344-347. doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2020.6177. PMID: 33443550; PMCID: PMC7809609
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Home Vision Eye Charts for Children and Adults  
<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/home-eye-test-children-adults>
- Ocular Telehealth: A Practical Guide (2022)  
<https://www.elsevier.com/books/ocular-telehealth/maa/978-0-323-83204-5>



## Ocular Telehealth

A Practical Guide

1st Edition - January 7, 2022

★★★★★ Write a review

Editor: April Maa

Paperback ISBN: 9780323832045

# RESOURCES: PREPARING PATIENTS FOR TESTING IN TELEMEDICINE

---

- Drs. Shannon Beres & Heather Moss
- Byers Eye Institute/Stanford
  - YouTube videos to provide guidance on neuro-ophthalmic testing of adult and pediatric patients.
- Dr. Dan Gold's Collection at NOVEL
- Johns Hopkins
  - “Telemedicine Ocular Motor Examination”
- <https://novel.utah.edu/Gold/>

