

Modern Imaging Techniques for Early Detection of Retinal Degeneration

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Annotation: Obtaining images of the internal anatomical structure of the visual organ is important in ophthalmology, because the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of patients rely on medical image information. Optical (based on the use of electromagnetic radiation in the optical range) and radiation (using ionizing radiation, magnetic resonance, ultrasound) diagnostic methods are used for visualization in ophthalmology. Technological advances at the end of the 20th century contributed to the emergence of many special diagnostic methods with a very high level of detail of the structures, mainly designed to visualize the posterior segment of the eye.

The value of the method of visualization of the anterior segment of the eye * is determined by the main criteria, such as the limits of the field of view, the level of detail of the visual image and the level of reliability of the obtained data. Based on this, when using non-invasive optical methods (biomicroscopy, keratotopography, vitreous endothelium microscopy, corneal confocal microscopy, computer densitometry, gonioscopy, microcycloscopy, microzonulscopy, retinal peripheral ophthalmoscopy, diaphanoscopy, optical examination of the retina, diaphanoscopy, optical-opticography) anterior segment of the eye), we conditionally distinguish three anatomical zones: well-seen (cornea, conjunctiva,

anterior chamber, anterior surface of the iris), partially shown (sclera, anterior chamber angle, lens, central parts of the vitreous) and almost not seen (stroma and iris back surface, objective equator and lens of the ligamentous apparatus, ciliary body, parietal parts of the vitreous body).

Keywords: Ultrasound biomicroscopy in inflammatory processes, Mechanical damage to the eye, Evaluation of complex lesions UBM.

The serious relevance of this problem is explained by the impossibility of examining almost the entire anterior segment in conditions of decreased transparency of the optical environment (especially the cornea). Most methods of radiation diagnostics (panel radiography, X-ray computer tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, conventional methods of ultrasound (US) A and B-scanning, spatial ultrasound scanning with color Doppler mapping) are designed to visualize the orbit or orbit. structures of the posterior segment of the eyeball, and does not provide sufficient information about the anterior segment of the eye.

Analysis of world clinical experience and literature data shows that among the various optical and radiation methods currently used in ophthalmology, it is the only method for intravital visualization of all elements of the anterior segment of the eye, including the "silent" zone. of the eye (and with microscopic dimensions) is ultrasound biomicroscopy.

The ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM) method developed and implemented by Charles Pavlin et al. In 1990, to evaluate the anterior segment of the eyeball, despite the relevance of the problem of visualization of "silent" zones covered by the iris, it did not find proper use in clinical practice. Although the method has been known for a long time, there are few publications on its clinical application, the possibilities have not been fully explored, there are no clear recommendations on the research algorithm, and there is a wide range of pathological diagnostic results. There are no large-scale studies. as in foreign sources, conditions affecting individual structures of the anterior segment of the eye (CJ Pavlin et al., 1992, 1995, 1998, 2000; S Matsumura et al., 1998; FS Foster et al., 2000; RH Silverman et al. al., 2006 (HP Tajchidi et al., 2006; DG Uzunyan, 2007; AG Shchuko, 2009; GV Shkrebet. Reports on the use of UBM in the diagnosis of ultrasound are not sufficient often depends on the knowledge and skill of the operator.

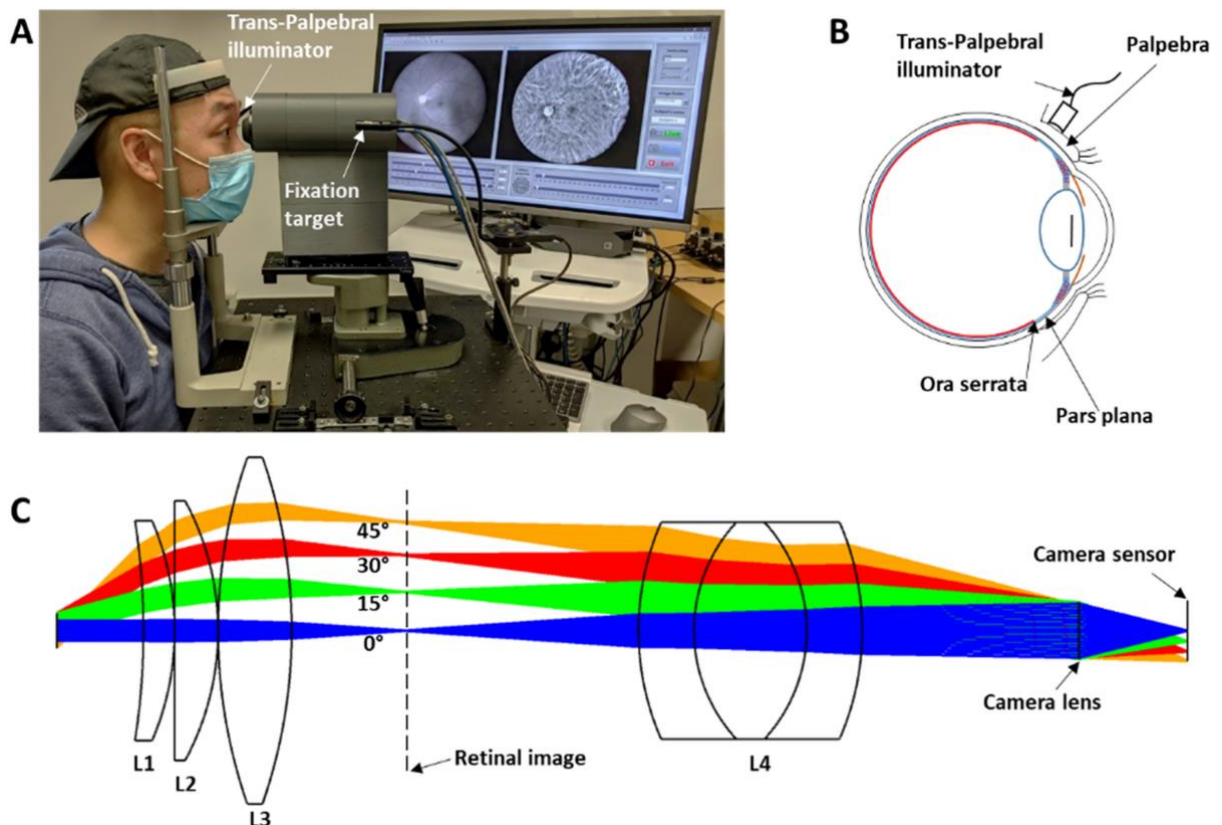
Thus, the main conditions of this study were as follows: firstly, the clinical needs of visualizing the anterior segment of the eye for timely and adequate diagnosis of various pathological conditions, secondly, the lack of sufficient information of widely used examination methods and thirdly, it is necessary to study the principles of scanning, to search for clinical and instrumental parallels in the analysis and interpretation of the results of ultrasound biomicroscopy, which will help to more effectively use and expand the potential capabilities of this method. Work

Studying the possibilities of visualization of the anterior segment of the eye based on the method of high-frequency ultrasound biomicroscopy and optimizing the technology.

Research objectives

1. Development of an algorithm and technology of ultrasound biomicroscopy for visualization of the structures of the eyeball and eyelids and assessment of the degree of compliance of the acoustic parameters with the anatomical structure of the anterior segment of the eye and eyelids.

2. Conducting comparative studies of the possibilities of biometrics of the structures of the anterior part of the eye using different methods (spatial ultrasound scanning, optical and UBM).
3. Based on the detailed analysis of the changes in the acoustic picture of the anterior segment of the eye, study the possibilities of using UBM in the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of inflammatory diseases of the sclera and choroid and evaluate its effectiveness.
4. Study of acoustic parameters of choroid tumors and evaluation of the level of information content of the UBM method in the diagnosis of neoplasms of different localization.
5. Determine the clinical value of UBM in the assessment of damage to various ocular structures as a result of mechanical trauma.
6. To study the effectiveness of using the UBM method in diagnosing structural disorders of the eyeball in degenerative conditions (iridocorneal endothelial syndrome, cysts of the squamous part of the ciliary body).
7. Determine the diagnostic value of the UBM method for evaluating the results of cataract surgical treatment and choosing tactics in non-standard situations in phacosurgery.
8. Study the possibility of visualization of skin neoplasms of the eyelids and periorbital area using ultrasound biomicroscopy and evaluate the content of the information to expand the instructions for using the method.
9. Study the acoustic parameters describing the anterior segment of the eye of the chinchilla rabbit, the most common experimental model in ophthalmology.
10. Based on the obtained data, determine the scope of application of high-frequency immersion ultrasound biomicroscopy in diagnosing the pathological condition of the anterior segment of the eye and develop practical recommendations for the use of UBM in clinical practice.

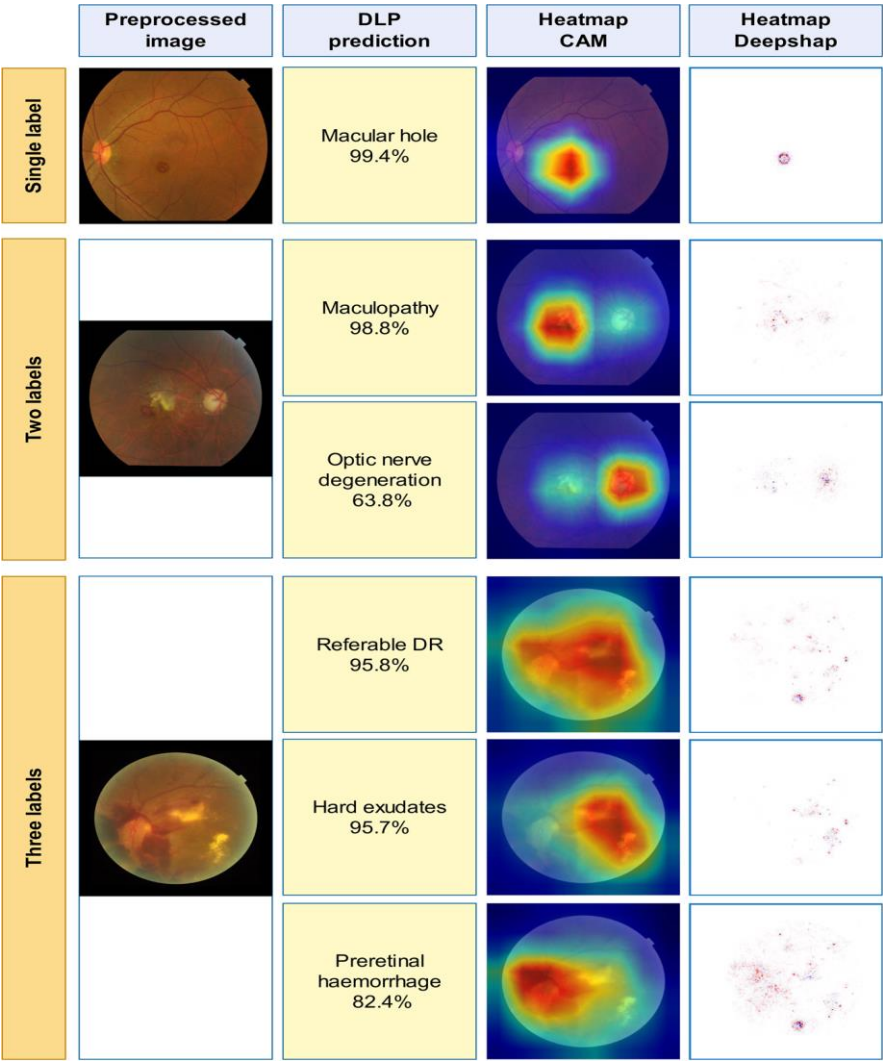


Scientific news

1. For the first time, extensive research was conducted on large clinical material, aimed at comparing the possibilities of visualization based on ultrasound biomicroscopy in various pathological conditions with the norm and identifying clinical and instrumental parallels, detailed study, ultrasound biomicroscopy as a separate independent diagnostic technology allows distinguishing, the clinical value of which varies from complementary to non-alternative, depending on the nature of the problems being solved.
2. An algorithm for scanning the eyeball and eyelids was proposed and tested, which allows to determine the criteria for evaluating the results of the scanning to the maximum of the visualization capabilities of the method, conditionally in normal eyes and in various pathological conditions; .
3. As a result of multifaceted research, it was proved for the first time that ultrasound scanograms reflect the nature of structural changes in tissues with high reliability and complement the clinical picture of inflammatory diseases. sclera and choroid, choroidal tumors of preequatorial localization, degenerative conditions (iridocorneal endothelial syndrome and cysts of the flat part of the ciliary body), damage to the structures of the anterior part of the eye due to mechanical trauma, skin neoplasms of the eyelids and periorbital region, and diagnosis of these pathological conditions allows the use of ultrasound biomicroscopy in differential diagnosis.
4. As a result of research, the effectiveness of using UBM in diagnosing the pathological condition of the anterior segment of the eye was determined and the level of informativeness of the method was evaluated in various clinical situations.
5. "Method for evaluating the condition of the intraocular lens" was developed (RF Patent No. 2332932 dated December 22, 2006), the use of which allows to quickly and accurately determine the localization of the IOL and its spatial relations. with the structures, axes and planes of the anterior segment of the eye.
6. The possibility of using UBM as an informative method for noninvasive diagnosis of skin tumors in the periorbital zone has been proven.
7. For the first time, the acoustic pattern of the anterior segment of the eye of the Chinchilla rabbit was studied, which can be used for intravital assessment of dynamic changes in anatomical structures during experimental studies on the most common animal model. Work

Practical significance

1. On the basis of the conducted research, a scanning algorithm based on successive axial, longitudinal (or meridional) and which consists in applying the principle of complementary (filling) of photography, localization and quantitative echography is proposed.) and tangential scanning of the eyeball, as well as horizontal and vertical scanning of the eyelids, allow to maximize the visualization capabilities of the UBM method.
2. The obtained results of ultrasound scanning with clear clinical and instrumental parallels showed the high informativeness of using ultrasound biomicroscopy for diagnosis, differential diagnosis and observation of various pathological conditions of the eyeball (inflammatory diseases of the sclera and choroid, choroidal tumors). choroid of preequatorial localization, degenerative-dystrophic conditions (iridocorneal endothelial syndrome and pars plana cysts of the ciliary body), structures of the eye during mechanical damage), as well as neoplasms of the skin of the eyelids and periorbital region and in the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of these pathological conditions can be recommended to ophthalmologists for use in clinical practice.



3. The use of ultrasound biomicroscopy as a diagnostic method in the analysis of results and planning of surgical intervention in phacosurgery allows: adequate examination of the implantation bed in the aphakic eye and assessment of the possibility and conditions of secondary IOL implantation; quickly and accurately determine the localization of the IOL in a pseudophakic eye, its spatial relationship with the structures, axes and planes of the anterior segment of the eye (RF Patent No. 2332932 dated December 22, 2006), identify and evaluate the disorder. It reveals the mechanism of pathological changes caused by IOL fixation and dislocation (secondary glaucoma, reactive uveitis).
4. According to the results of ultrasound biomicroscopy, the assessment of changes in the acoustic picture of the anterior segment in different pathological conditions helps to choose a differentiated approach to the choice of tactics and extent of treatment (including surgery).
5. Based on the obtained data, the scope of application of high-frequency immersion ultrasound biomicroscopy was defined and practical recommendations for the use of UBM in various clinical situations were formulated.

The main rules presented to the defense:

UBM is an independent non-invasive diagnostic technology that significantly expands the possibilities of intravital imaging in ophthalmology, its clinical significance varies depending on the nature of the tasks being solved, and complementing each other, increasing the information content. , reliability and accuracy of non-alternative diagnostics.

The proposed scanning algorithm is based on the application of the principle of complementarity, localization and quantitative echography, and is based on sequential axial, meridional and

tangential scanning of the eyeball, as well as horizontal and vertical scanning of the eyelids. . Maximize the visualization capabilities of the UBM method.

The range of UBM capabilities based on high accuracy ensures that the ultrasound sections are highly compatible with the anatomical structure of the anterior segment of the eye, which was used to determine the acoustic "norm" of the parameters of the anatomical structures of the eye. conditionally normal eye and anterior segment of the eyelids, as well as the eye of the Chinchilla rabbit - the most common experimental model in ophthalmology.

Ultrasound scanograms reflect the nature of structural changes in tissues clearly and with high reliability and complement the clinical picture of inflammatory diseases of the sclera and choroid, choroid tumors of pre-equatorial localization, degenerative-dystrophic conditions (iridocorneal endothelial). syndrome and cysts of the squamous part of the ciliary body), damage to the structures in the front of the eye due to mechanical damage, neoplasms of the skin of the eyelids and the periorbital region, which allows the use of UBM in the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of pathological conditions.

Ultrasound biomicroscopy was performed under epibulbar anesthesia. A funnel-shaped eyelid dilator is placed in the conjunctival cavity, filled with an immersion fluid (saline or oftigel), an ultrasound sensor is inserted into it, and the eyeball under it is placed in a certain plane. tissues were scanned. The ultrasonic radiation frequency was 35/50 MHz, the scanning depth was 18.5x14mm/12x14mm, and the measurement accuracy was 27-35mm/23-27µm.

The removed tumors of the eyeball, lid skin and periorbital region were subjected to histological examination.

Statistical processing of the results was carried out using the Statistica 8.0 software package.

Scanning algorithm and UBM technology. It is common to visualize the anatomical structures of the eye.

The uniqueness of the ultrasound biomicroscopy procedure is determined by the features that fundamentally distinguish it from traditional ultrasound scanning methods. Among them, the presence of a moving sensor that performs vibration during learning; the need to install an immersion cannula using an immersion tool; short working distance (from the sensor to the scanned object). Strict perpendicular positioning and the most accurate movement of the sensor relative to the structures being scanned are the keys to obtaining high-quality scans that clearly reflect the anatomical picture.

The algorithm of ultrasound examination, including the sequential use of axial, longitudinal (or meridional) and tangential scanning, as well as the complementary principle of research, localization and quantitative echography, allowed to visualize and evaluate the parameters of all structures. anterior segment of the eye in different planes. Eyelids were scanned in vertical and horizontal planes.

Visualization is a collective term that reflects the ability of a method of estimating the acoustic parameters of structures in the context of UBM, i.e. The evaluation criteria of scanning results were reflection, homogeneity, surface profile relief, quantitative parameters and spatial relationships of anatomical structures. In some cases, the repetition of colors allowed a better visualization of the details of the reflection. The qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the scanograms obtained during repeated examinations were compared with the previous ones.

In order to study the main possibilities of visualization of the structures of the anterior segment, as well as the options and methods of their quantitative assessment, a study of the eyes of patients conditionally defined as normal was carried out.

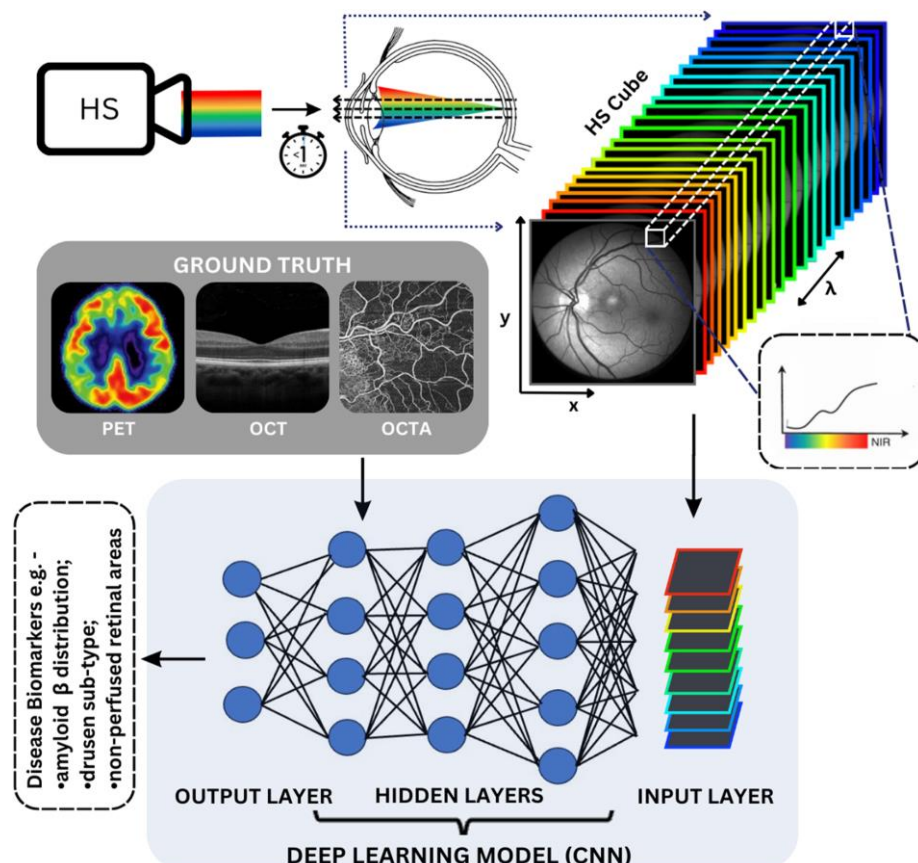
The criteria for inclusion of patients in the group of "conditionally normal eyes" were as follows:

- ✓ age of the subjects is 18-67 years old,
- ✓ the length of the anterior-posterior axis (APA) of the eye is from 22.5 to 26.5 mm,
- ✓ no medical history. ophthalmic surgery,
- ✓ absence of concomitant eye pathology.

During the scanning process, the scanning algorithm and principles are as follows:

- anatomical structures (cornea, episclera and sclera, bulbar conjunctiva, iris, ciliary tube, lens with ligamentous apparatus, ciliary body, peripheral part of choroid, etc.) retina, anterior part of vitreous body (including anterior basis) eye cavities (chambers), corners; and connections of various structures (anterior and posterior chambers of the eye, anterior chamber angle, trabecular-ciliary distance, trabecular-iris angle, etc.)

analysis of acoustic parameters of anatomical structures of conditionally normal eyes opened new possibilities. for how to qualitatively and quantitatively assess the anatomical structure of the anterior segment known from histological studies, the uniformity, the relief of the surface profile and the quantitative parameters. The possible measurement algorithm of various parameters (linear, angular) made it possible to significantly expand the possibilities of scientific and practical research in studying the peculiarities of the relative location of anatomical structures in the living eye, even under normal conditions. in pathological conditions.



Ultrasound examination of the eyelids of 22 patients showed that the method of ultrasound biomicroscopy revealed the skin of the upper and lower eyelids, the circular muscles of the eye (m. orbicularis palpebrarum), the tarsal plates of the eyelids, the levator of the upper eyelid. muscle aponeurosis (m. levator palpebrae superioris), muscle complex Müller - conjunctiva, ducts of Krause's glands, orbital fat tissue. Dynamic measurement of the parameters in different directions of the eye showed that the thickness of the levator aponeurosis of the upper eyelid increased by

52% from the initial value, and the thickness of the Mullerian muscle-conjunctival complex increased by 28%.

Comparative studies of the possibilities of biometry of structures in the front of the eye were carried out using ultrasound biomicroscopy, spatial ultrasound and the method of forming optical parts (based on the Scheimpflug principle). When measuring the width of the corner and the depth of the anterior chamber, the results of the analysis showed the high accuracy of these methods (correlation coefficients in the range of 0.85-0.97). At the same time, the important advantages of UBM were a combination of high resolution with no dependence on the degree of transparency of the studied structures (in particular, lenses).

Ultrasound visualization during changes of various origins of the anatomical structures of the eye

Ultrasound biomicroscopy in inflammatory processes

Among the main signs of inflammation established by Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen (calor, rubor, tumor, dolor, functio laesa), the most important during ultrasound biomicroscopy is swelling, because it leads to a violation of the anatomical structure. can be assessed qualitatively and quantitatively in scanograms.

UBM in the diagnosis of inflammatory diseases of the fibrous membrane

The diagnosis of inflammatory processes in the sclera can be difficult due to the intensive static injection of superficial vessels, masking the involvement of deeper layers and complicating the differentiation of episcleritis and scleritis, evaluating the type and dynamics of inflammation.

UBM was used for the diagnosis and monitoring of episcleritis and scleritis localized in the preequatorial zone of the eyeball in 44 patients (32 women and 12 men, 57 eyes). The initial test with a vasoconstrictor (irifrin 10%) did not allow to clearly determine the type of injection of the eyeball in 56% of cases. According to the results of the scan, episcleritis was detected in 81% of cases (by type: simple sectoral or diffuse, with an average increase in the thickness of the conjunctiva with the episclera in the inflammatory area up to 280 ± 46 μm - 49% of the eyes, 315 ± 24 μm in the locally affected area with nodular episcleres with an average total thickness of the conjunctiva - 32% of the eyes. Scleritis was diagnosed in 19% of cases: an increase in the thickness of the sclera itself in the acute inflammatory phase to an average of 1280 ± 137 μm in the acute inflammatory phase and without diffuse necrosis, a decrease in reflection, eye 9 percent had no nodules. - in 10% of eyes, necrosis with more pronounced swelling and infiltration of the sclera (inflammation of "nodules" reached a thickness of 2.5-2.6 mm). In 12% of cases (5 patients, 7 eyes), scleroveitis was detected, which was not detected before UBM. Both hyperreflective areas of scar thinning of the sclera and relatively hypoechoic, heterogeneously reflective areas with focal edema have been shown in patients with long-standing scleritis. In the waning stage of inflammation, more pronounced thinning of the sclera (up to 190-200 μm) was observed in patients with nodular scleritis.

the anterior chamber of the eye and ultrasound signs of localized inflammation in the vitreous (thin opacities, snow-like exudate, threads of different intensity and length; fixed fibroglial membranes at the anterior base of the vitreum) in a relatively resorbed state found in the phase of remission, as well as long after the inflammation has subsided. This is consistent with known observations of long-term persistence of the inflammatory substrate in the vitreous. Unspecified parietal opacities were found mainly in the lower parts of the eyeball.

The variability of the ultrasound picture in uveitis of different origins reflected the type and stage of the inflammatory process (acute or chronic, slow or recurrent) during UBM. This study made it possible to identify clinical situations in which the visualization of pathological changes is possible only with the help of UBM:

- uveitis in a pseudophakic eye - in 59% of cases, due to UBM, a violation of the capsular fixation of the IOL. The contact of the supporting elements and/or the optical part of the IOL with the reactive tissue causing uveitis has been reliably determined;
- intermediate uveitis - 56% of cases;
- decreased transparency of the optical environment (corneal transparency, anterior chamber fluid, complex uveal cataract) - 19% of cases.

UBM allowed the most accurate assessment of the level and dynamics of inflammation and the effectiveness of treatment, and therefore can be recommended as a sufficient objective method for the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with uveitis of various origins.

UBM in the diagnosis of choroid tumors

It is known from the literature that among all neoplasms of the choroid, tumors of iridociliary and/or ciliochoroidal localization are the most difficult to identify (also at relatively later stages of development) (Brovkina AF et al. al., 1980, 2002).

We examined 232 patients (232 eyes) aged 4 to 78 years (mean age 44.8 ± 16.5 years) with suspected or confirmed choroidal tumor. 84 men and 148 women were examined. When conducting UBM:

- the meridian/sector of the location of the tumor, its dimensions (maximum values of meridional, tangential size and thickness), acoustic structure and configuration of the tumor were determined;
- evaluated the borders of the tumor, its relationship with the neighboring anatomical structures and the condition of the tissues surrounding the tumor;
- Ultrasound examination was performed both to evaluate the growth and structural changes of the tumor and during tumor removal. A retrospective analysis of ultrasound scans obtained during UBM at the time of tumor resection was performed, comparing them with images of available histological specimens.

According to the results of ultrasound examination of 232 patients sent to the UBM to see the tumor, the diagnosis of "choroidal tumor" was excluded in 9% of cases (21 eyes). As shown by UBM, in 19 eyes, the hyaline appearance of the iris was due to the growth of iridociliary neuroepithelial cysts (defined biomicroscopically when the diameter increased to 1.3-1.5 mm or more) or the presence of lens masses (2 eyes z), due to the insufficient level. aspirated during phacosurgery. Table 3 shows the ultrasound results of 211 eyes (91%) in which tumors were reliably visualized during the scan and summarizes the usefulness of UBM for different localizations of choroidal tumors; In addition, a single isolated tumor of the ciliary body without clinical manifestations, incidentally detected during UBM, was included.

detailed determination of iris tumor borders by ultrasound became the basis for transferring 10 of them to the iridociliary group.

UBM in the evaluation of complex lesions in mechanical eye injuries

In 75% of cases, mechanical damage leads to the development of a complex, combined pathology involving the anterior segment of the eye, which can be difficult to assess in detail due to a number of conditions. caused during trauma, for example, optical means due to a decrease in transparency (Gundorova RA et al., 1986, 2009).

Using the UBM method, 192 eyes with long-term treatment within 1 month (45.5%) and 55 years, including 178 patients with 68% closed and 32% open eyes were examined old (54.5%) . Immersion research technology allows UBM to be performed when there are no obvious defects in the outer membranes of the eyeball.

Despite the complexity of the detected injuries, analysis of trauma scans for individual anatomical structures was performed.

Corneal damage detected in 68 eyes, including penetrating corneal damage with foreign body penetration into the cornea - 3, penetrating corneal damage with foreign body penetration - 2, penetrating corneal damage after PCO (including corneoscleral) - 8, corneal rupture according to keratotomy scar - 1, post-traumatic cornea - 47, post-traumatic descemetitis and swelling of the cornea - 7. In 89% of cases, according to UBM, post-traumatic corneal cataracts are divided into II- categories. VI, that is. combined with damage to other anatomical structures of the eye. Traumatic damage to the structures of the uveal pathways was observed in 160 cases. Ultrasound signs of iris damage were identified (traumatic mydriasis - 87, pupillary sphincter tear - 42, iridodialysis - 17, aniridia - 2, various iris tissue defects after penetrating wounds - 34, synechia (front and/or back) - 58, implantation cysts growing on the iris - 5), angle of the anterior chamber of the eye (AKA) recession with localization and size determination - 5, cyclodialysis - 9, ciliochoroidal detachment (CD) - 22, traumatic uveitis - 11 eyes. A clear advantage of the UBM was the ability to assess the location, meridional and tangential extent, height and nature of the central storage facility composition. Based on the height of the choroidal compartment, we can distinguish flat (0.12 - 1.5 mm) - 10 eyes, medium vesicular (1.5-3 mm) - 7 eyes and upper vesicle (3 - 5 .8 mm) - we distinguished 5 cases.

Analysis of the state of the lens and ligament apparatus using ultrasound allowed to identify 2 types of damage during trauma: damage to the ligament apparatus with an intact lens capsule (with or without cataract) - 112 eyes (104 patients) and integrity damage. lens capsule - 46 eyes (46 patients). Evaluation of the ligament defect from the scanograms allowed us to identify grade I, II, and III subluxation in 31, 54, and 22 eyes, respectively. In 4 cases, luxation was described in the vitreous body, and in 1 case, in the anterior chamber of the eye.

The following vitreous injuries were observed: anterior chamber hernias - 15 eyes, bleeding (hemophthalmos) - 22 eyes; Visualization of the anterior base of the vitreous body made it possible to use UBM to detect anterior proliferative vitreoretinopathy (APVP) - 19 eyes (the network and meridional level of the membranes, their intensity was determined, the localization of fixed ligaments and tractions was determined and detailed).

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