Re: Akagi et al.: Rates of local retinal nerve fiber layer thinning before and after disc hemorrhage in glaucoma (Ophthalmology. 2017;124:1403-1411)

TO THE EDITOR: We read with great interest the recent article by Akagi et al1 exploring the effects of disc hemorrhage (DH) on the progression of retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL) thinning in glaucoma. They found that the rates of RNFL thinning were faster in DH quadrants after DH, and that intensification treatment has a beneficial effect. However, we have some questions. First, in this study, the authors found that the treatment intensification, visual field mean deviation, and difference in intraocular pressure before and after DH will have an effect on the global RNFL slope values. Did the authors consider these factors when they were analyzing the difference in RNFL thinning rates among different quadrants and after DH? Second, did the authors retrospectively analyze the RNFL change at different locations before the DH, especially the difference rates of RNFL thinning at the “non-DH quadrants” and “DH quadrants”? This will tell us whether DH will appear at the location that had faster rates of RNFL thinning.

Third, in Table 2, the data showed that the rates of RNFL thinning were significantly slower after DH in non-DH quadrants, compared with before DH, and that there is no difference in the rates of RNFL thinning before and after DH in the DH quadrant. Does this mean that the appearance of DH has a protective effect that will slow the rates of RNFL thinning? Finally, the authors found that intensified glaucoma treatment will have a beneficial effect in reducing the rate of RNFL thinning in glaucoma patients. Did the authors also detect the change in visual field accordingly, because visual field change is a very important indication of glaucoma progression?

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