

# IDENTIFYING CNV FEEDER VESSELS IN AMD, UTILIZING HIGH-SPEED, HIGH MAGNIFICATION ICG ANGIOGRAPHY

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In the search for additional treatment modalities for stopping the progression of the choroidal neovascular membranes, a new laser treatment procedure is being used.

The treatment calls for photocoagulating only the 'feeder vessel' of the CNV membrane, which originates in the choroid. The rationale is that by causing the closure of this vessel, the whole membrane nourished by it will collapse, thereby stopping the progressive growth of the membrane that eventually destroys the center of vision.

In addition, the resultant treatment area will be much smaller, causing less destruction to the retina and thus minimizing attendant vision loss.

ICGA is well suited for uncovering and outlining the choroidal vasculature, as opposed to FA. As these vessels are often visible only during the early- sometimes very early - stages of the ICG angiogram, special photographic equipment and techniques must be used. Scanning laserophthalmoscopes are the instruments best suited for this application, owing to their high resolution and fast image-per-second rate of acquisition.

As this treatment method becomes more widespread, imaging of the CNV feeder vessels will become part of our routine photographic chores, with its own set of guidelines, terminology and problems.

The special photographic techniques for documenting feeder vessels, as well as pre- and post-treatment images, will be discussed.