

ALL I REALLY  
NEED TO KNOW  
I LEARNED IN  
KINDERGARTEN

UNCOMMON THOUGHTS  
ON COMMON THINGS

ROBERT FULGHUM

THE NUMBER 1  
INTERNATIONAL  
BESTSELLER

Michael W. Belin, M.D.,

*Professor of Ophthalmology & Vision Science*

*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (USA)*

Consultant OCULUS GmbH

CMO - EPION Therapeutics

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- *Scheimpflug Technology*
- *How Elevation Data is Displayed*
- Pellucid Marginal Degeneration
  - Sensitivity vs Specificity
- Measuring Corneal Thickness



# Scheimpflug Technology

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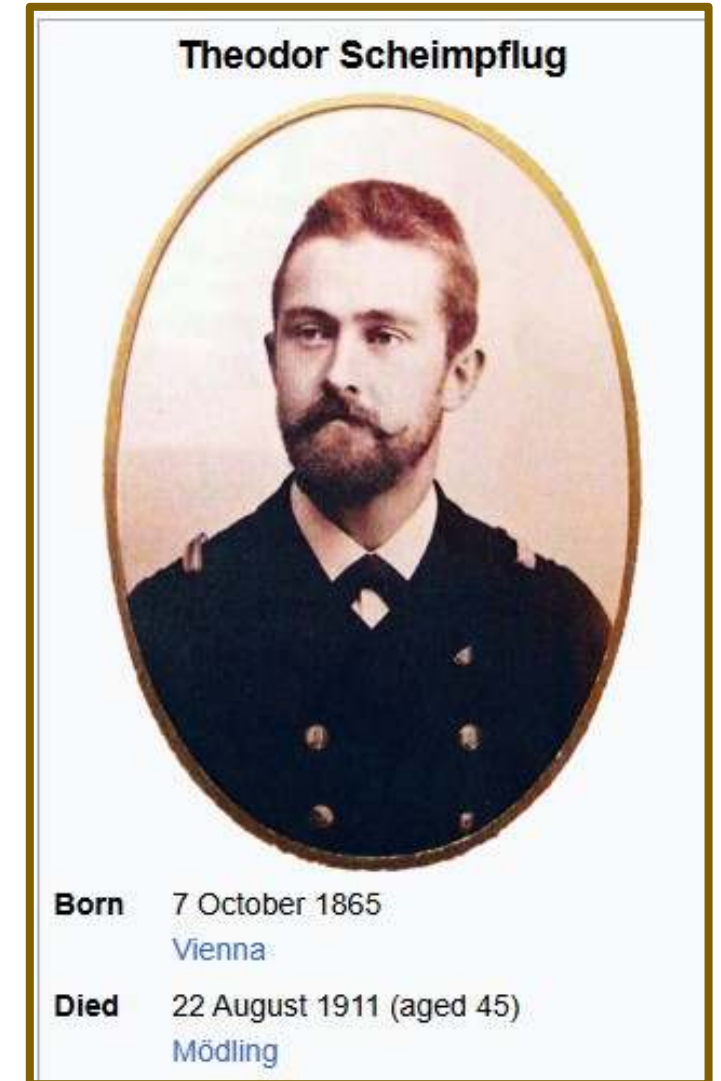
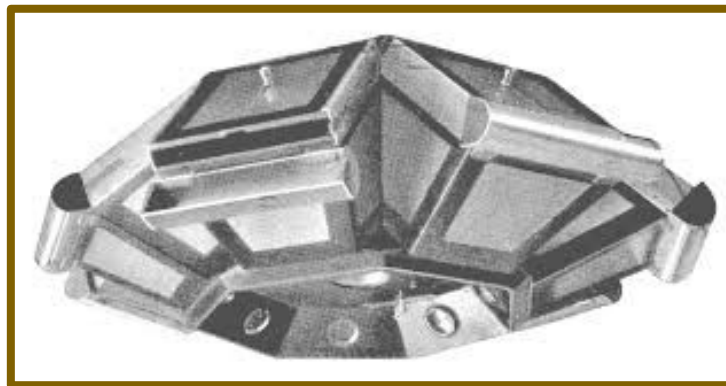
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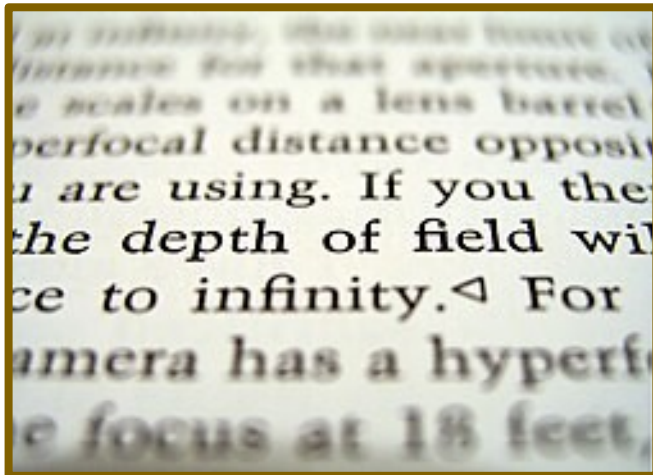
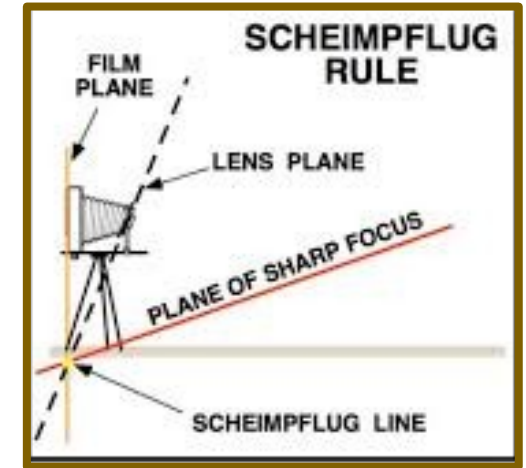
# Scheimpflug Photography

- The principle is named after Austrian army/navy Captain Theodor Scheimpflug, who used it in devising a method and apparatus for correcting distortion in aerial photographs



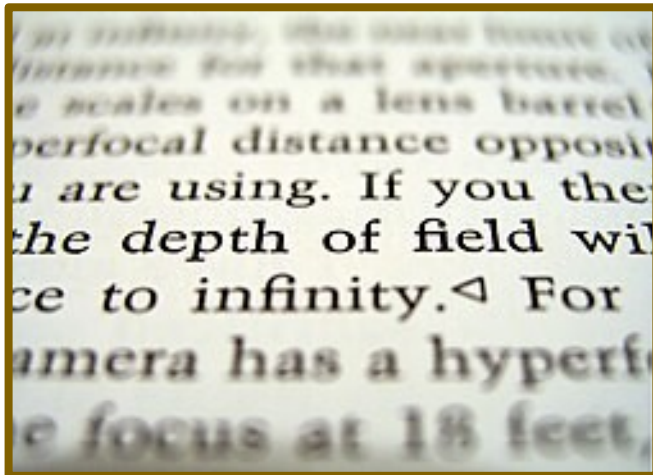
# Scheimpflug Principal

- In a conventional camera, the lens plane and the image plane (sensor or film) are parallel, meaning only subjects parallel to the image plane can be rendered entirely sharp.
- The Scheimpflug principle states that if the object plane, the lens plane, and the image plane all intersect along a single common line (known as the Scheimpflug line), then the entire object plane will be in sharp focus.



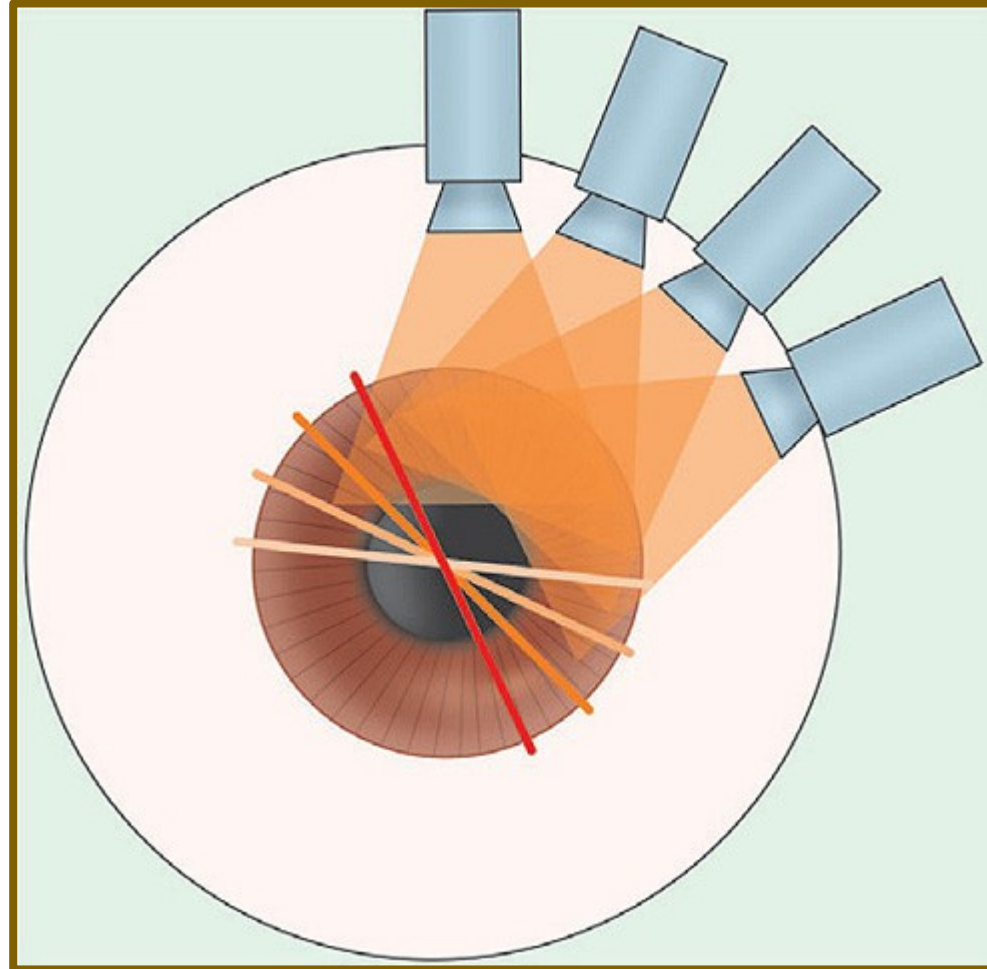
# Scheimpflug Principal

- **EXTENDED DEPTH OF FIELD** – allows for a vast depth of field across an oblique field without needing to use a very small aperture, which avoids image degradation from diffraction and allows for faster shutter speeds



# Scheimpflug Imaging in Medicine

- Non-invasive technique that uses a rotating camera to create a cross-section, 3D image of the anterior segment of the eye.
- Provides detailed data on the cornea, anterior chamber, lens and angle
- Limited to Ophthalmology as requires optical cross-section



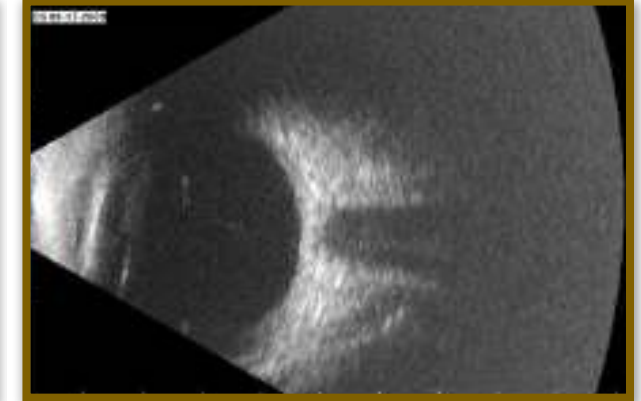
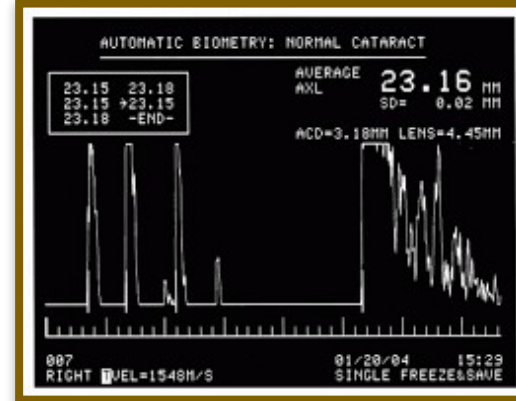
# Scheimpflug vs OCT

- Total Scan Time vs Image Acquisition Time
  - OCT has faster **Scan** acquisition time
    - $< 0.125$  seconds vs 2 seconds
  - Scheimpflug has faster **Image** acquisition time
    - $< 0.001$  seconds vs 0.125 seconds



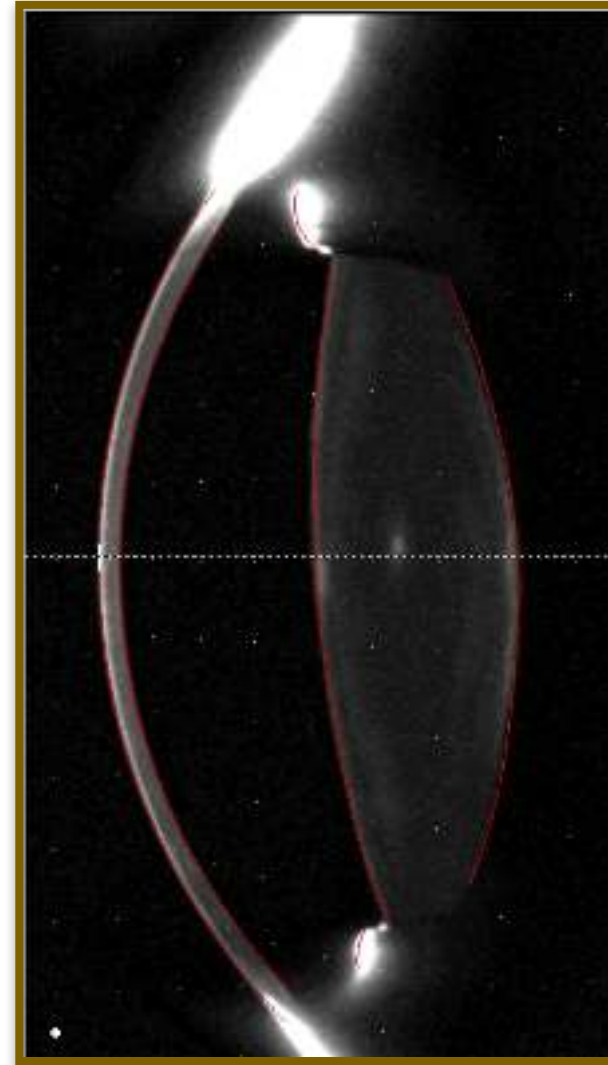
# Scheimpflug vs OCT

- Similar to comparing A-scan to B-scan.
- A-scan is better at “measuring”
  - (axial length)
- B-scan is better at “imaging”



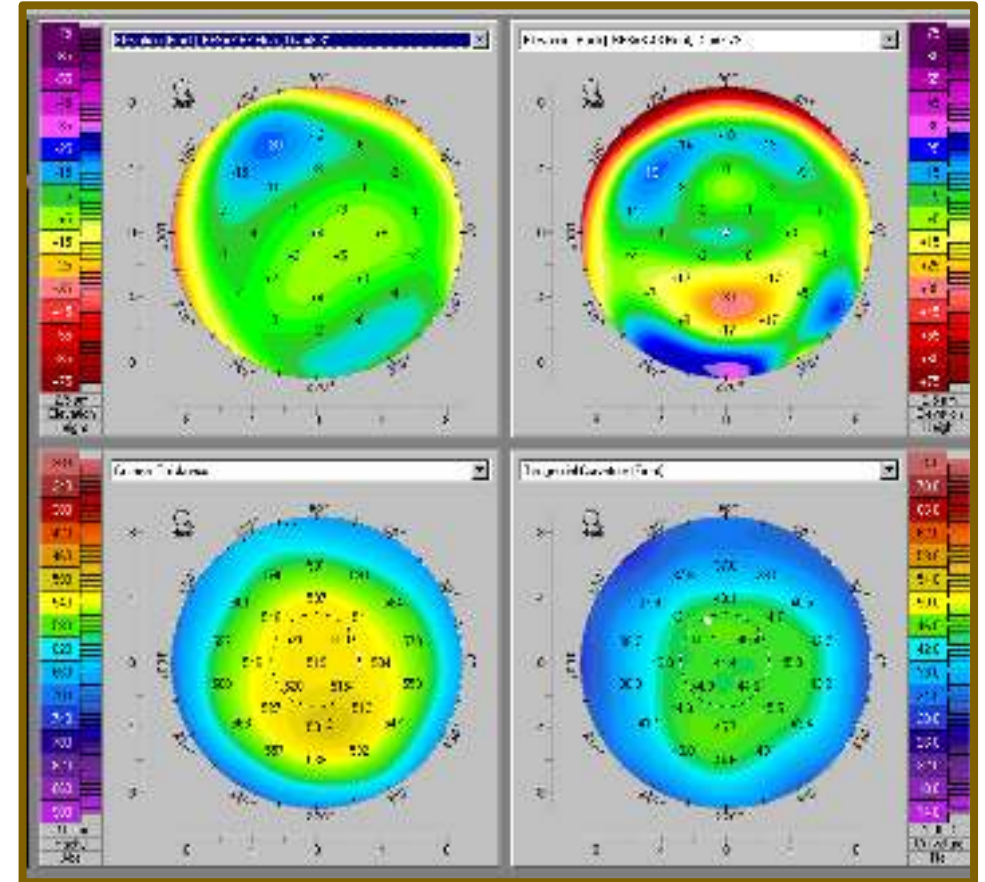
# 3 – Dimensional Analysis

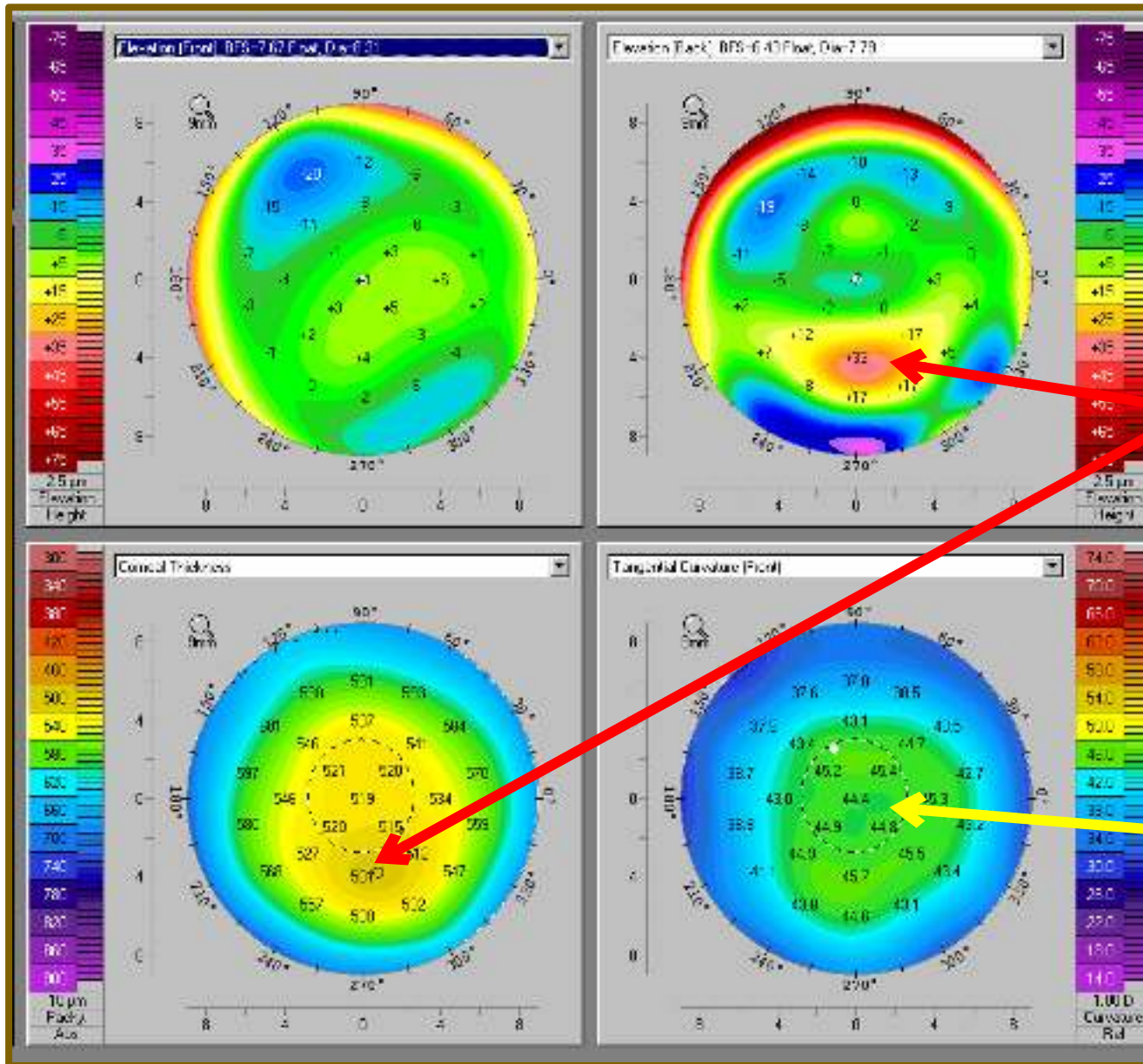
- The major advance of complete anterior segment analysis is the ability to measure the posterior corneal surface and a full corneal thickness map



# What is “*Subclinical*” Keratoconus ?

- It is TRUE Keratoconus
  - It is not “*suspect*”
- Corneas are abnormal
  - Abnormal posterior elevation
  - Abnormal pachymetric progression
  - But normal anterior curvature
    - Patients retain good vision
      - “subclinical Keratoconus”

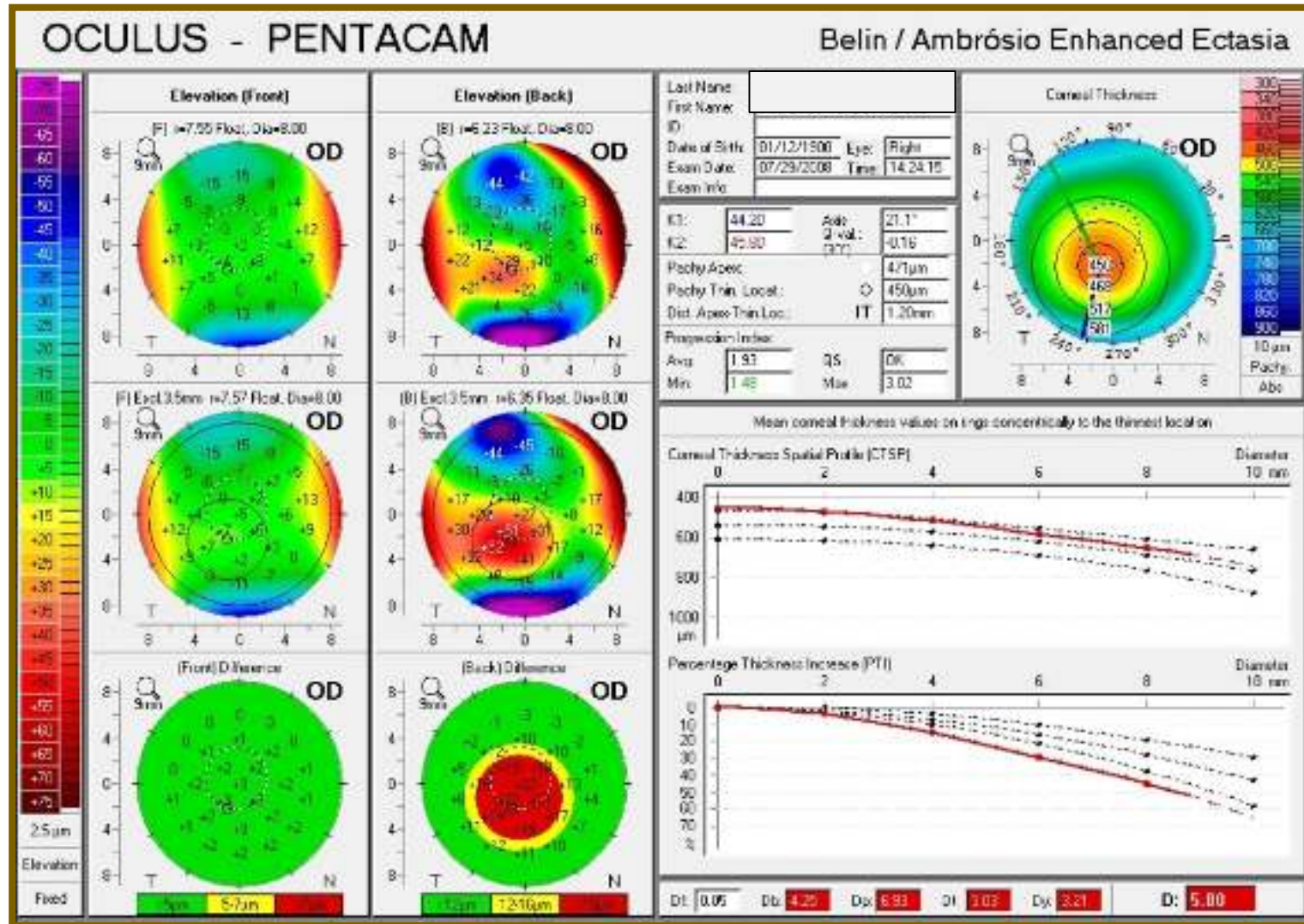




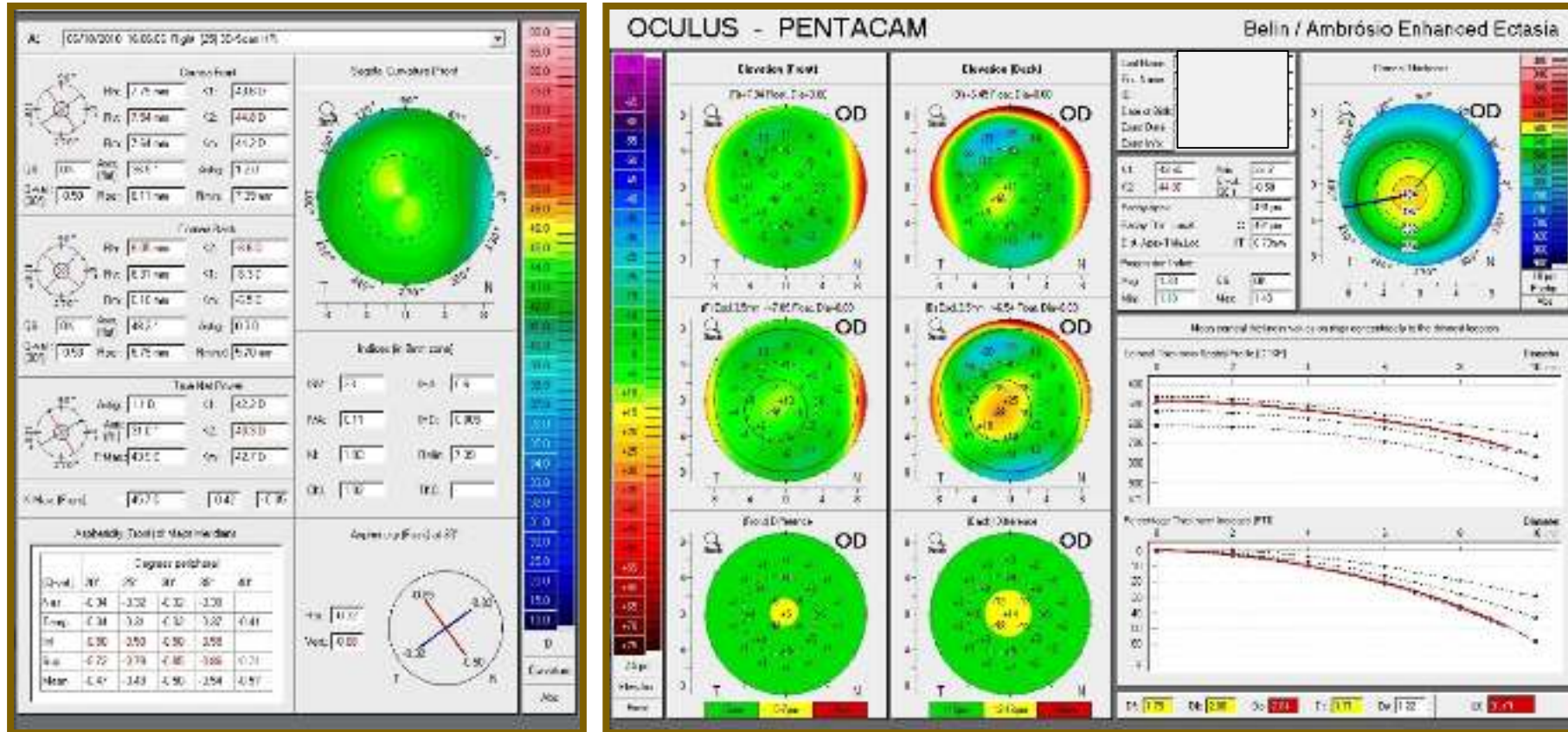
Abnormal  
posterior  
elevation &  
pachymetric  
progression

Normal  
anterior  
curvature

# *“Subclinical”* Keratoconus



# Advantages of Tomography



*Normal by Curvature - Clearly Abnormal by Tomography*

# Anterior vs Posterior Cornea KCN Detection

| Parameter                    | Cut-off | AUC   | Sensitivity | Specificity | <i>p</i> |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Ele_F_BFS_8mm_Apex_          | > 3     | 0.834 | 70.1        | 94.5        | 0.0001   |
| Ele_F_BFS_8mm_Max._4mm_Zone_ | > 12    | 0.957 | 87.6        | 96.5        | 0.0001   |
| Ele_F_BFS_8mm_Thinnest_      | > 5     | 0.973 | 91.5        | 99.0        | 0.0001   |
| Ele_B_BFS_8mm_Apex_          | > 6     | 0.858 | 72.3        | 93.5        | 0.0001   |
| Ele_B_BFS_8mm_Max._4mm_Zone_ | > 22    | 0.976 | 92.7        | 97.0        | 0.0001   |
| Ele_B_BFS_8mm_Thinnest_      | > 12    | 0.983 | 94.4        | 98.0        | 0.0001   |

Fernando Faria-Correia, Isaac Ramos, Bernardo Lopes, Marcella P. Salomão, Allan Luz, Rosane O. Correa, Lívia Faria Jordão, Belin MW, Renato Ambrósio Jr, Int J Kerat Ect Cor Dis 2012; 1(2):92-99

# Central Pachymetry vs Full Pachymetric

| Parameter     | Cut-off | AUC   | Sensitivity | Specificity | <i>p</i> |
|---------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Pach Apex     | ≤ 517   | 0.932 | 85.9        | 87.0        | 0.0001   |
| Pach Min      | ≤ 494   | 0.956 | 81.9        | 97.5        | 0.0001   |
| PI <i>avg</i> | > 1.05  | 0.996 | 97.7        | 99.0        | 0.0001   |
| PI <i>max</i> | > 1.42  | 0.996 | 95.5        | 100         | 0.0001   |

Fernando Faria-Correia, MD, Isaac Ramos, MD; Bernardo Lopes, MD; Marcella P. Salomão, MD; Allan Luz, MD; Rosane O. Correa, MD; Lívia Faria Jordão, MD; Renato Ambrósio Jr, MD, PhD

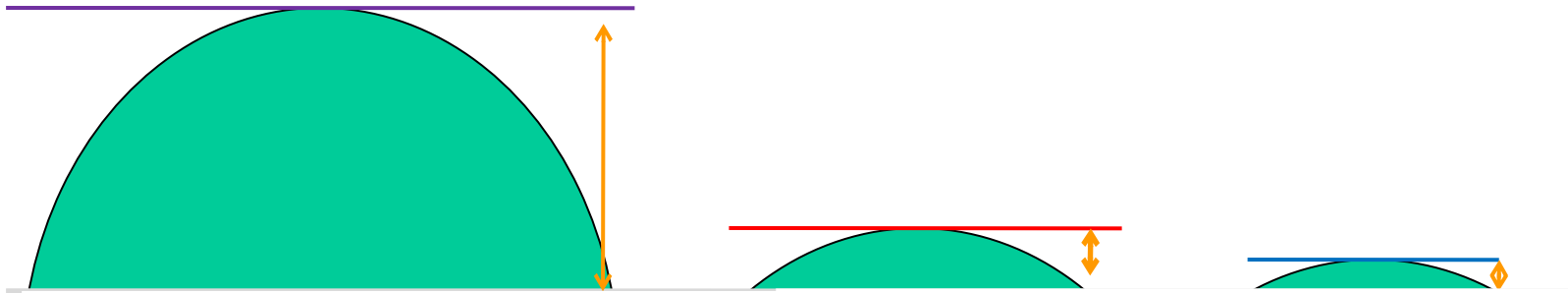
# Can Elevation based systems derive accurate curvature ?



*Truth vs Myth*

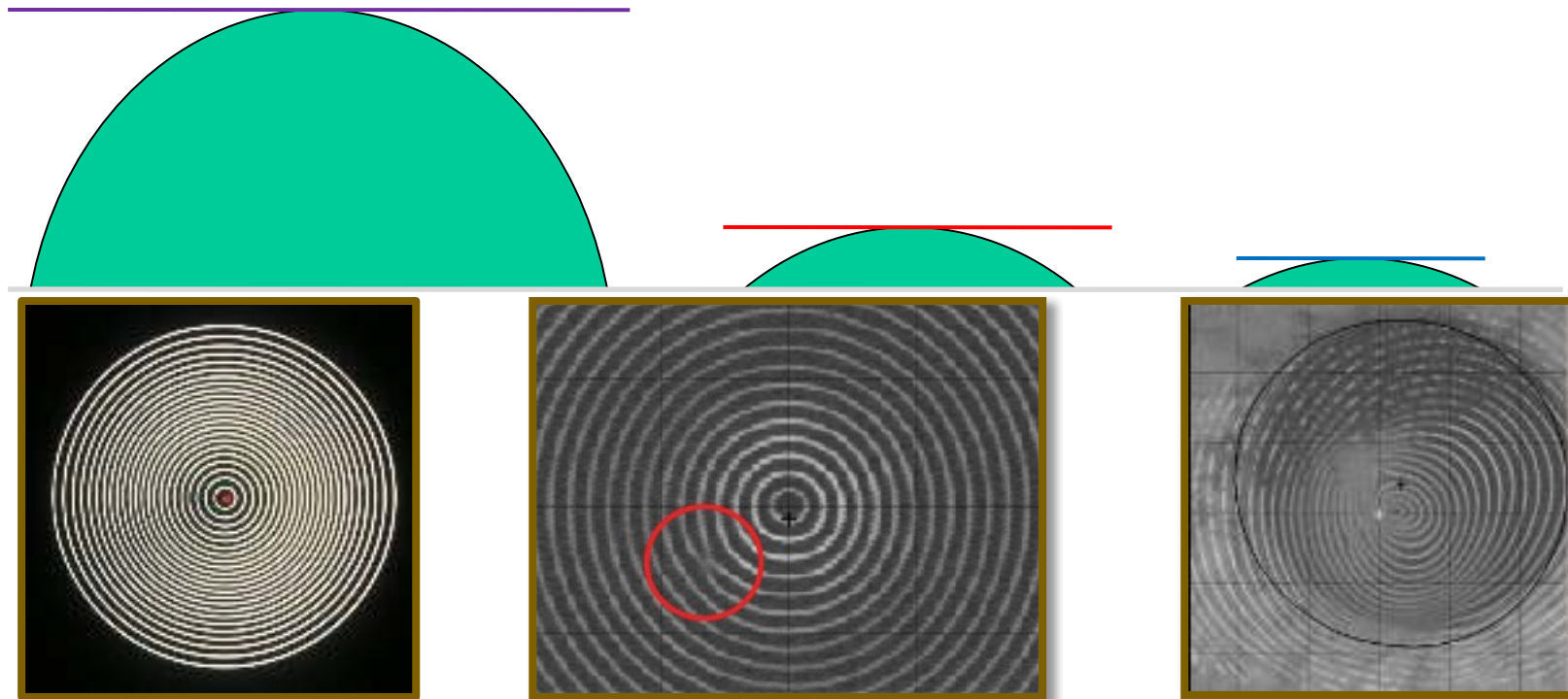
# Placido vs Elevation

- Assertion that Elevation is not as sensitive as Placido is incorrect

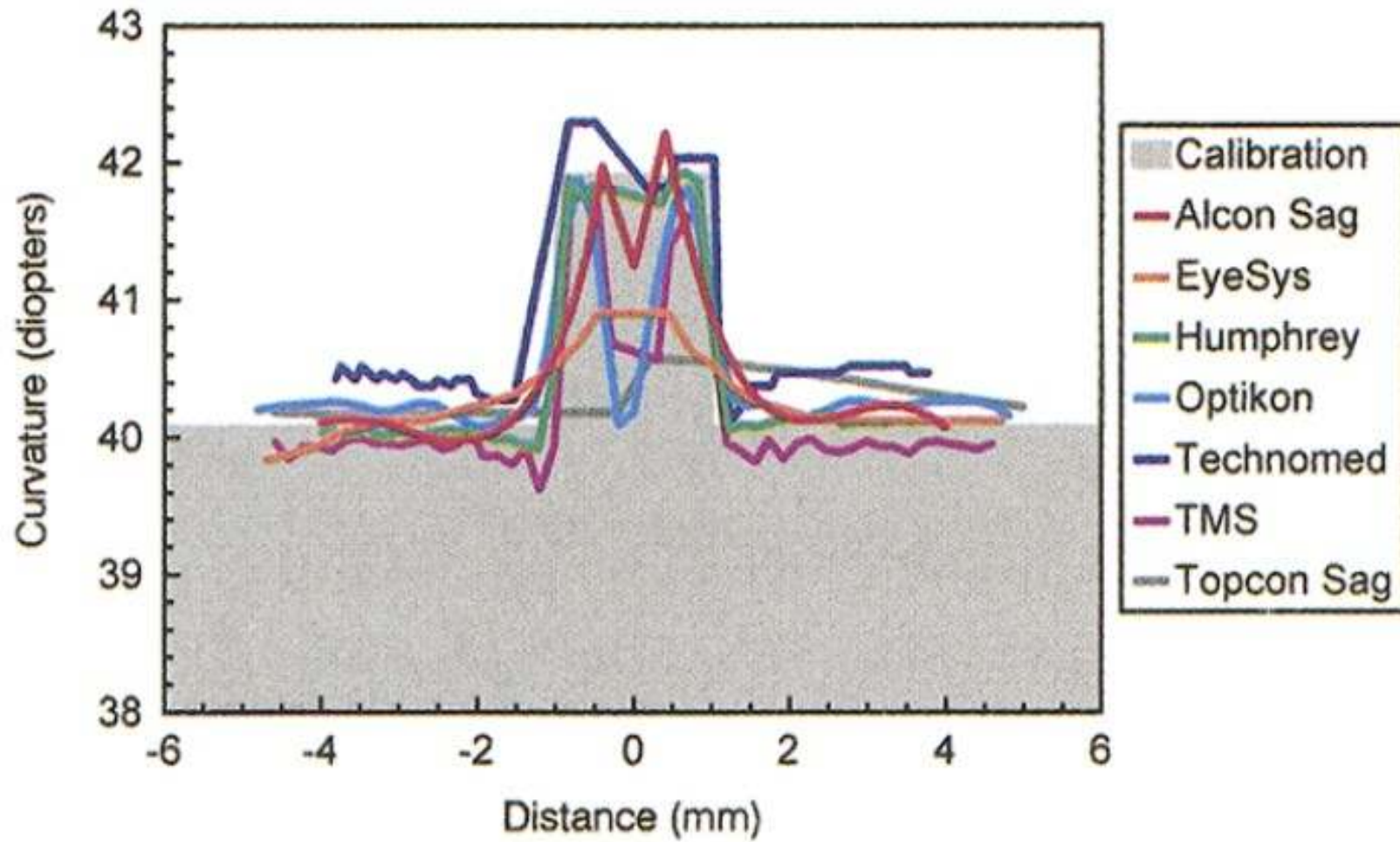


Small Elevation Change but Equal Curvature

Placido systems cannot read minute changes because this would require the rings to be very thin and close causing them to merge (*cross*) and become unreadable with normal levels of distortion.

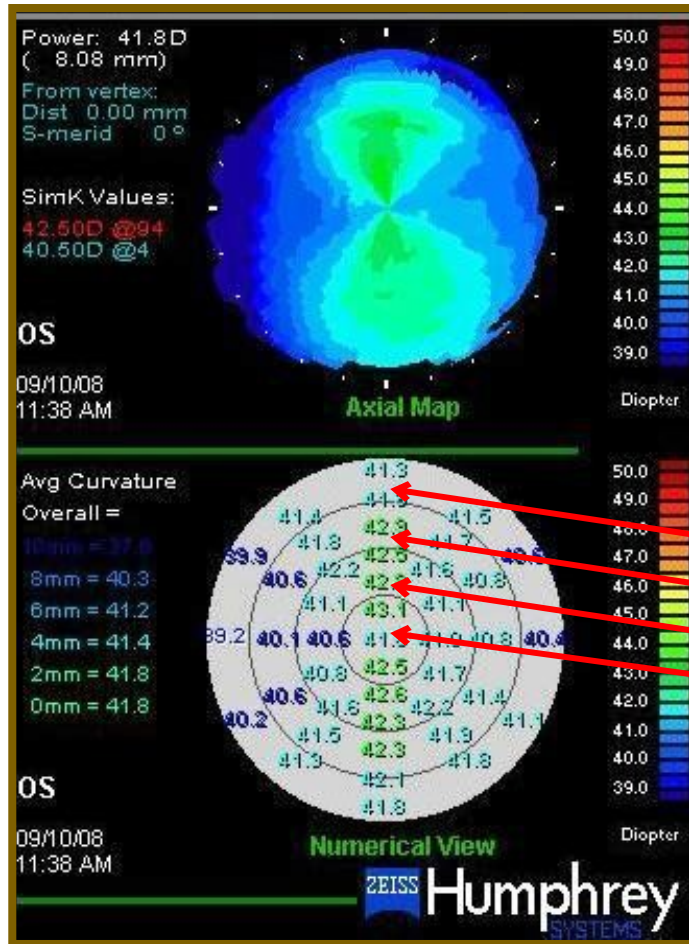


- The assertion that Elevation systems are not as sensitive as Placido systems is incorrect
- Testing was/is done on highly reflective spherical test objects – *Ball Bearings*
  - ANSI / FDA standard testing
    - Testing on Spherical test objects has limited clinical relevance

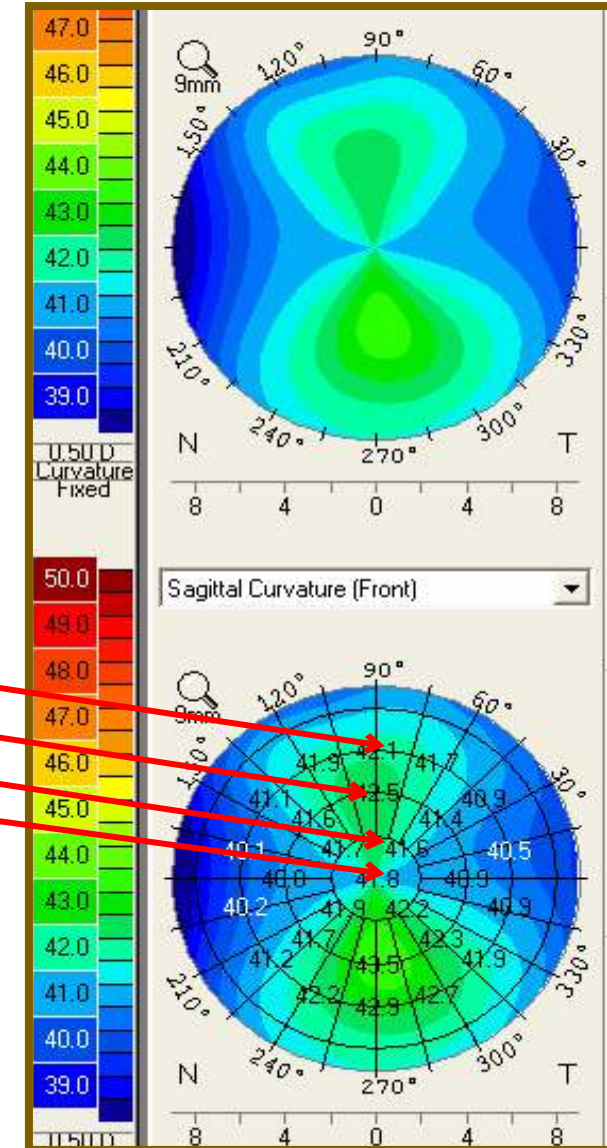


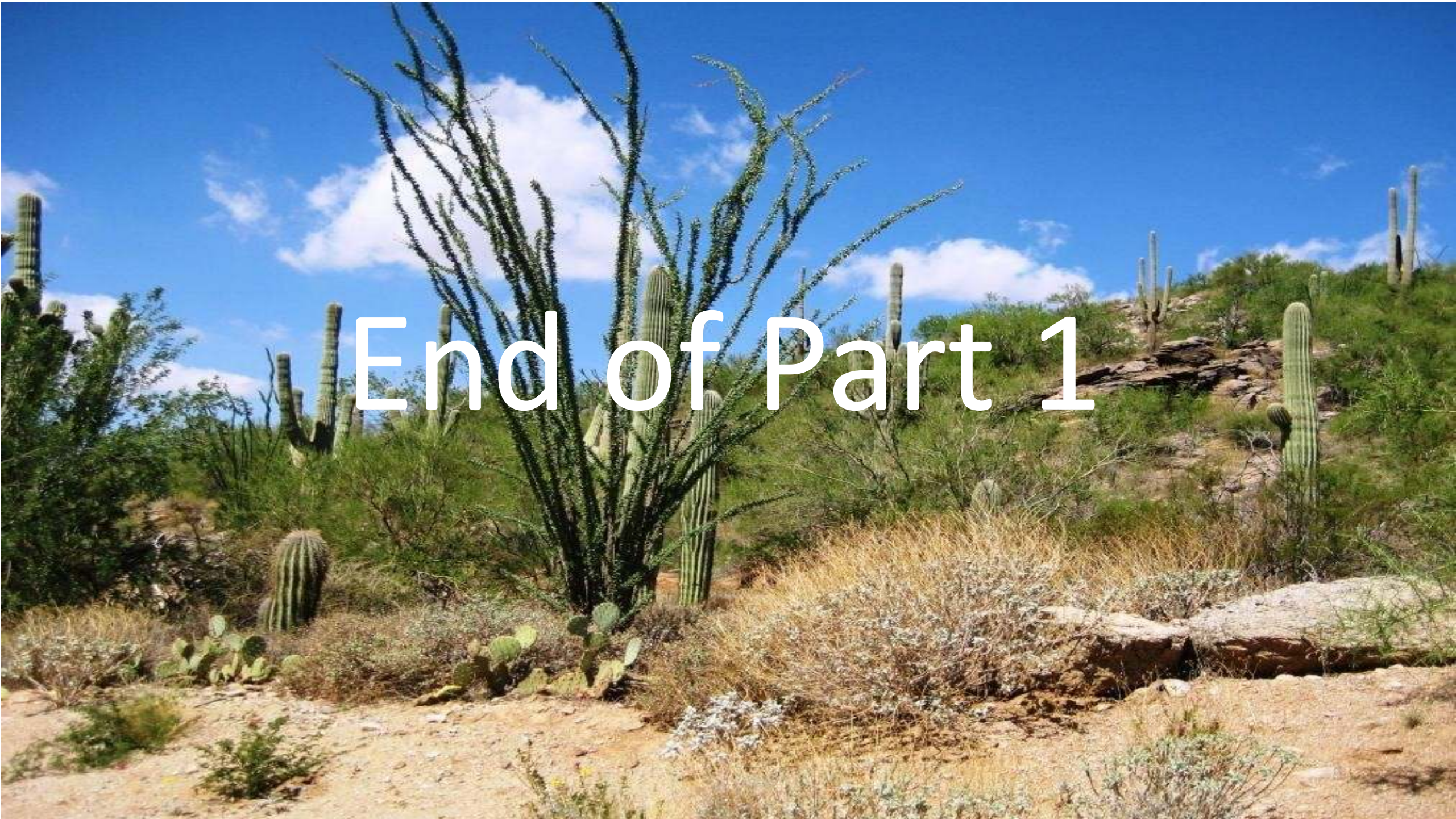
Belin MW, Ratliff CD: Evaluating Data Acquisition and Smoothing Functions of Currently Available Videokeratoscopes. J Cataract Refract Surg 22:421-426, 1996.

# Curvature Comparison



Compared  
Average K  
values at the  
0mm, 2mm,  
4mm, and  
6mm zones



A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, dark green cholla bush with many thin, spiny branches. To the left and right of the cholla are several saguaro cacti of various sizes. The ground is sandy and covered with low-lying desert shrubs and dry grass. In the background, a hill rises under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "End of Part 1" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

End of Part 1

# How Elevation Data is Displayed

Michael W. Belin, M.D.,

*Professor of Ophthalmology & Vision Science*

*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (USA)*

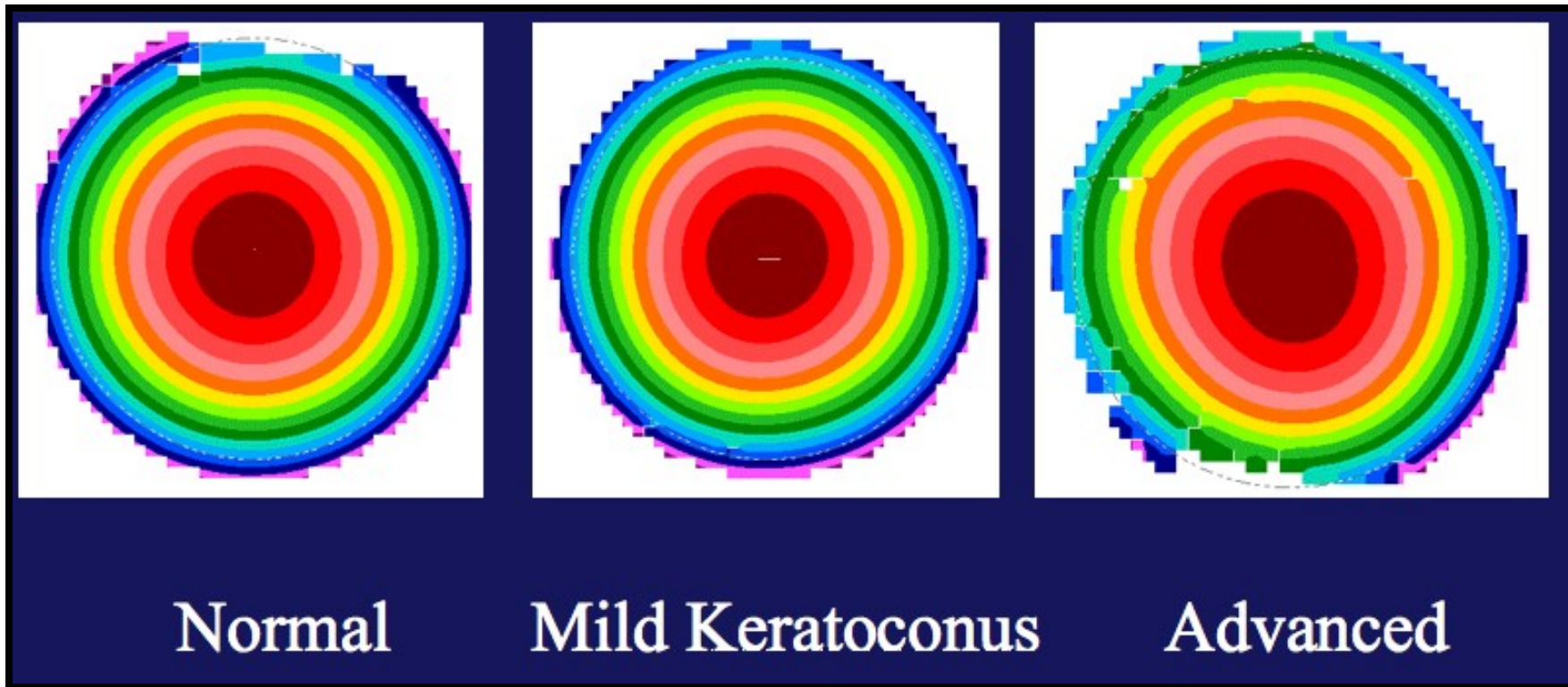
Consultant OCULUS GmbH

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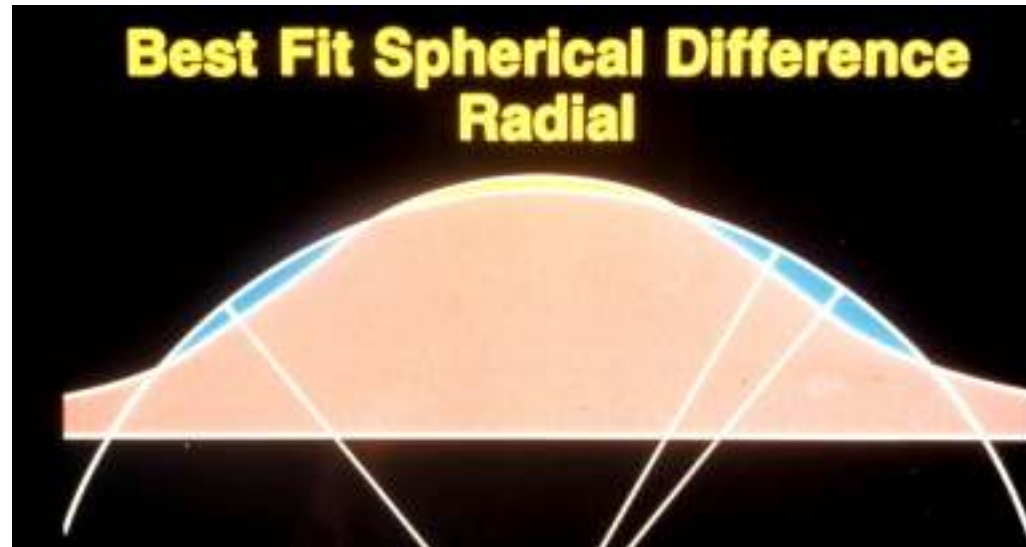
# How is Elevation Data Displayed

- “RAW” elevation maps are rarely used

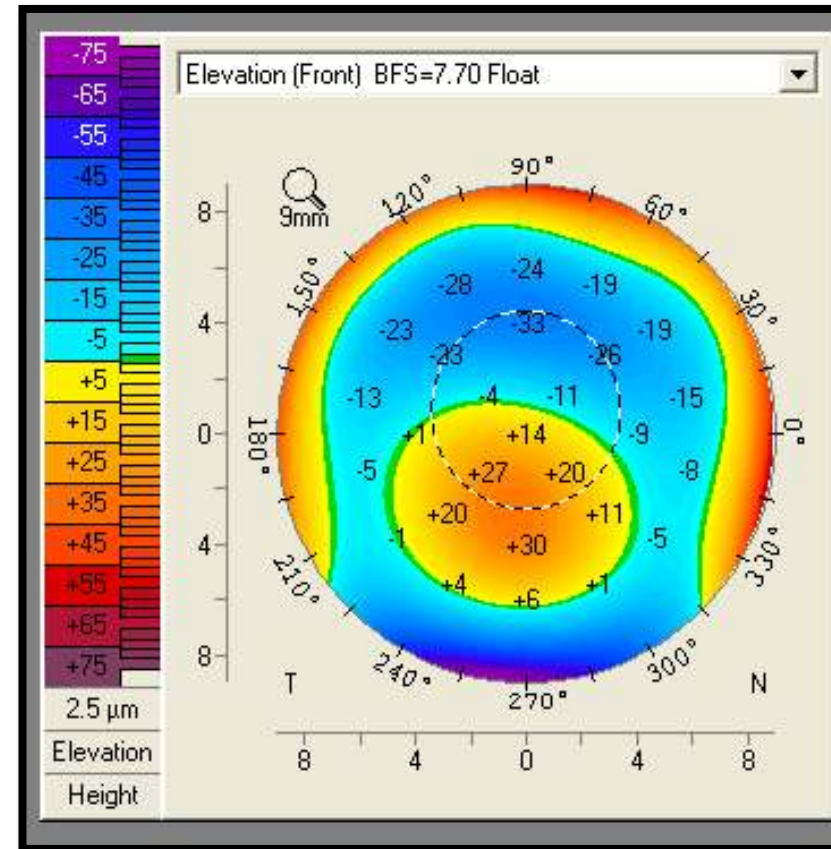
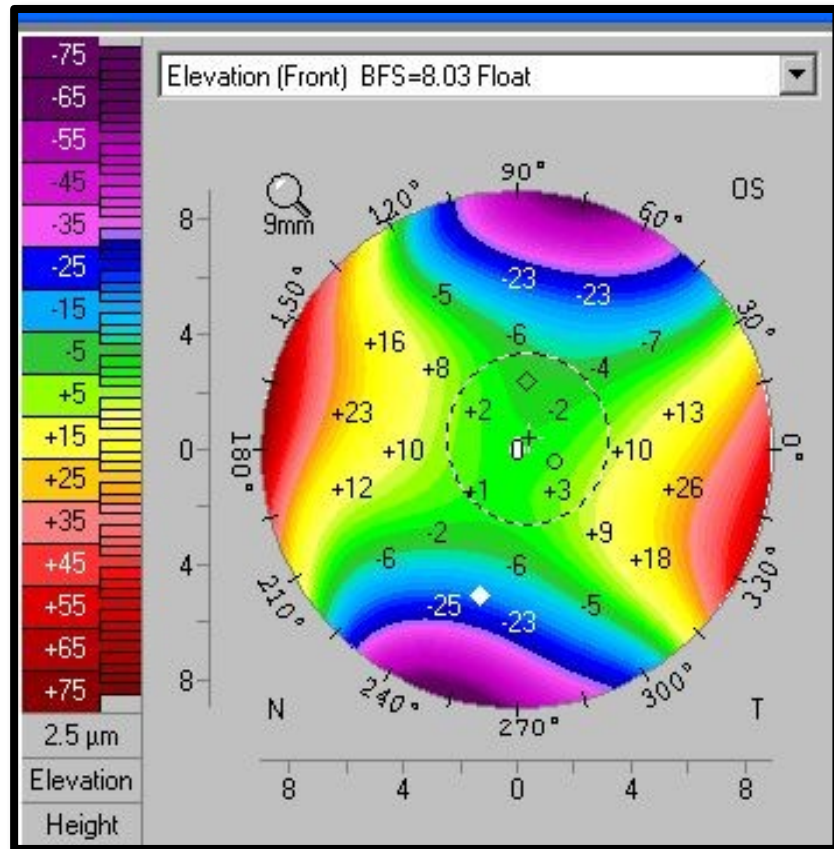


# How is Elevation Data Displayed

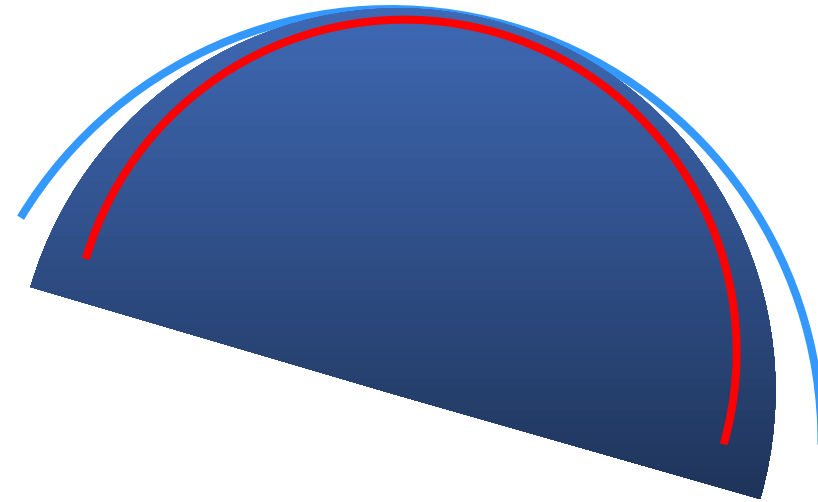
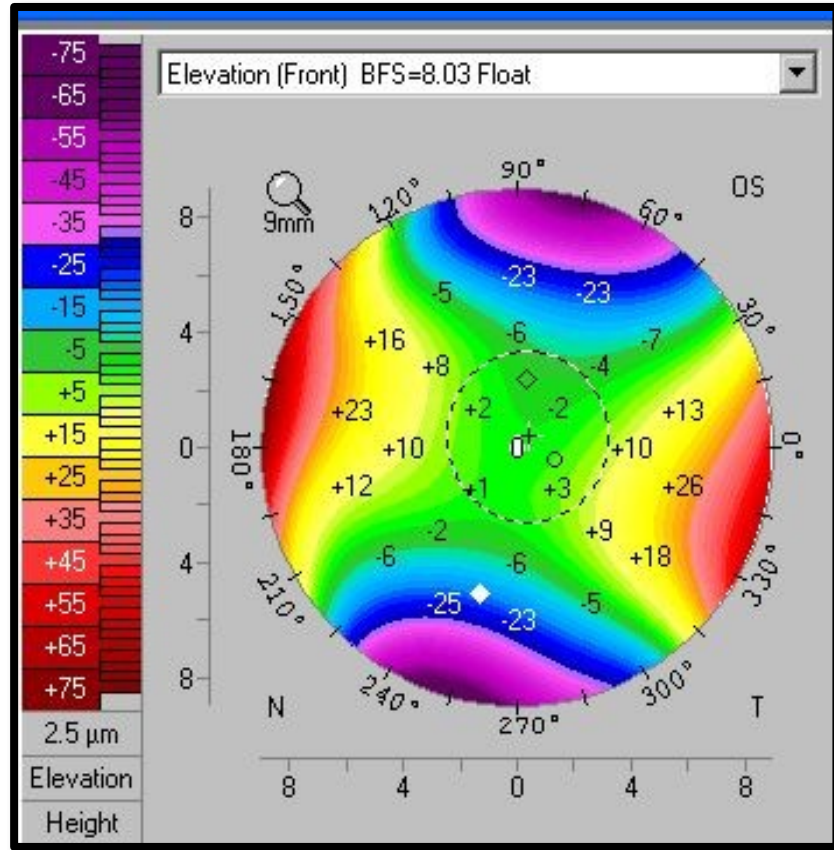
- The most common method is to compare (*amplify*) the raw elevation data against some common shape
  - The most common shape used is the Best Fit Sphere (BFS)
  - Other shapes can also be used
    - Ellipse
    - Toric Ellipsoid



# Astigmatism vs. Keratoconus

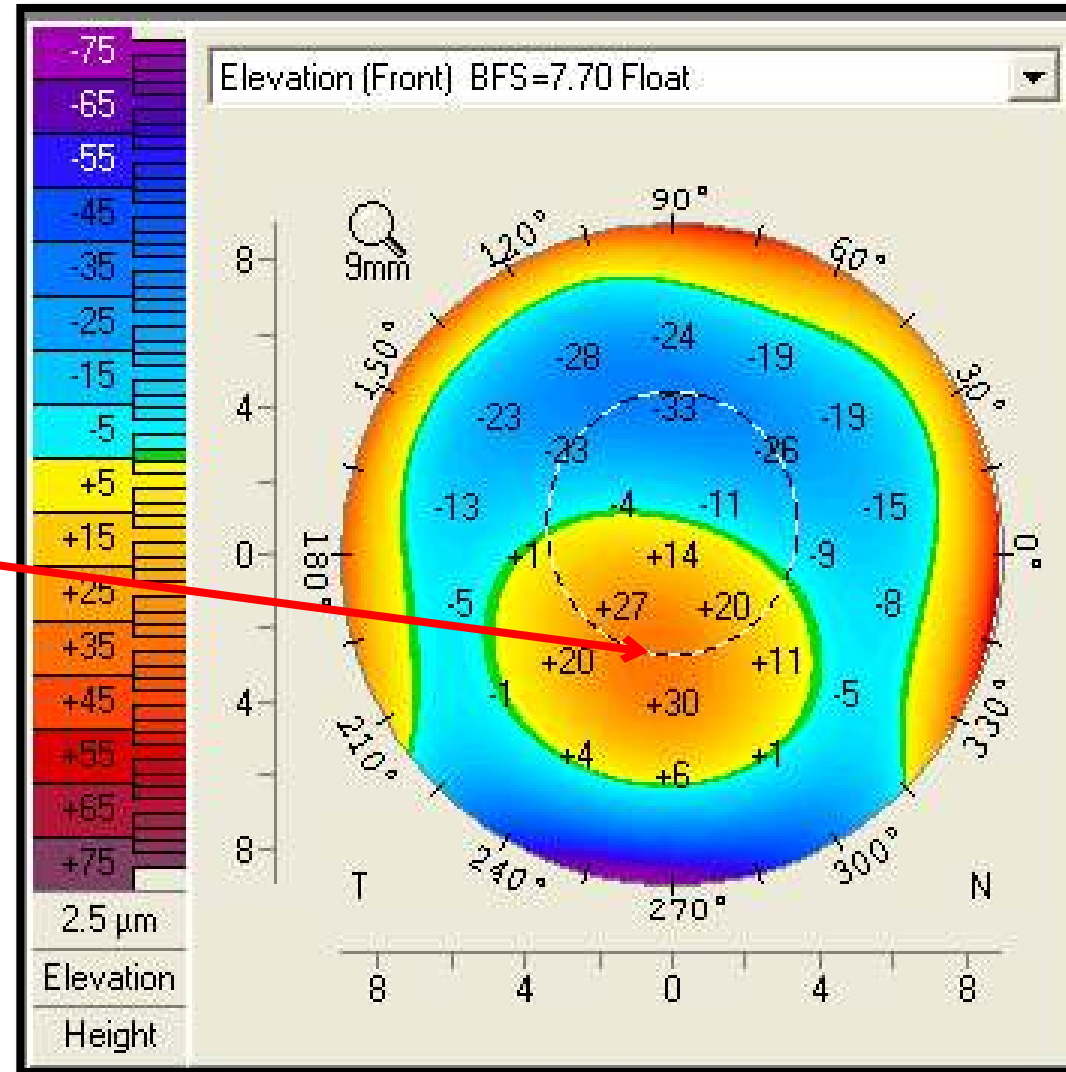


# Astigmatism

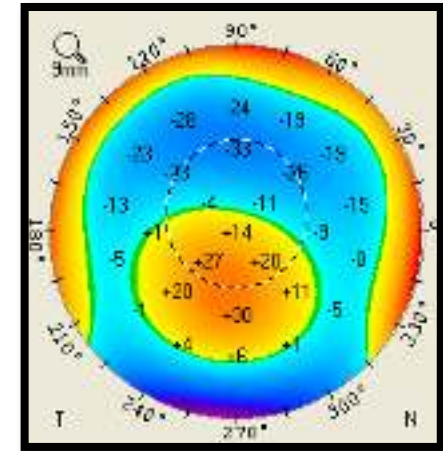
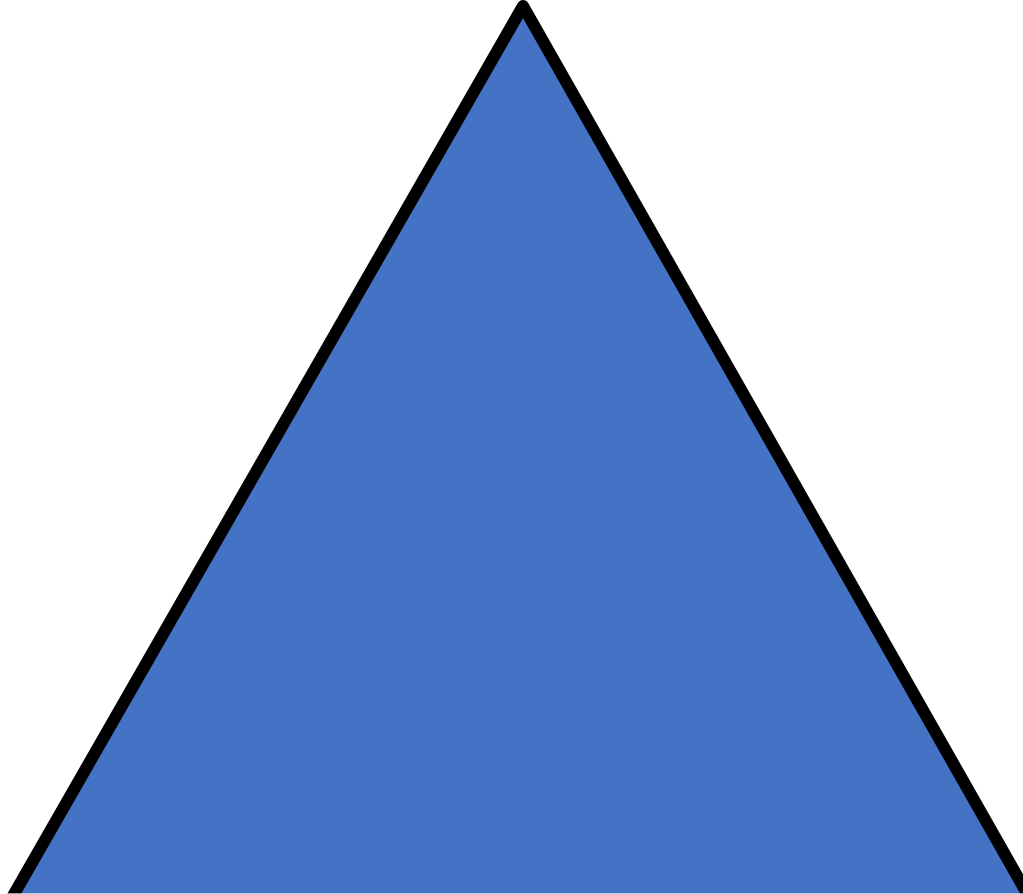


# Keratoconus

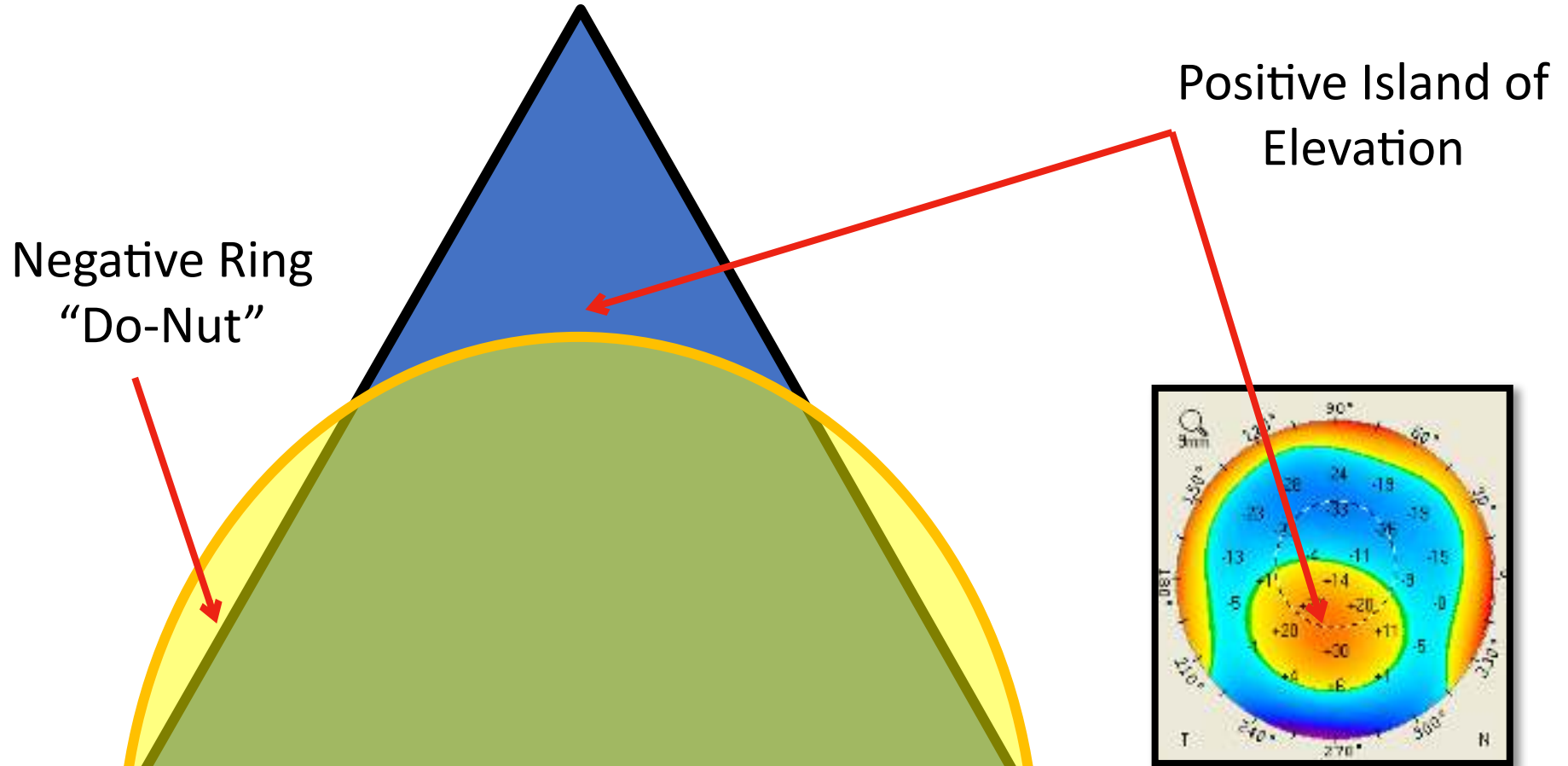
We look for central  
or para-central  
*“Positive Islands of  
Elevation”*



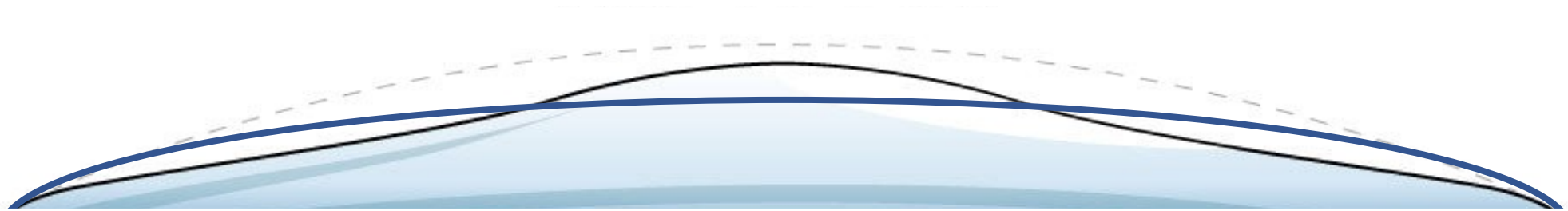
# Derivation of Keratoconus Pattern



# Derivation of Keratoconus Pattern

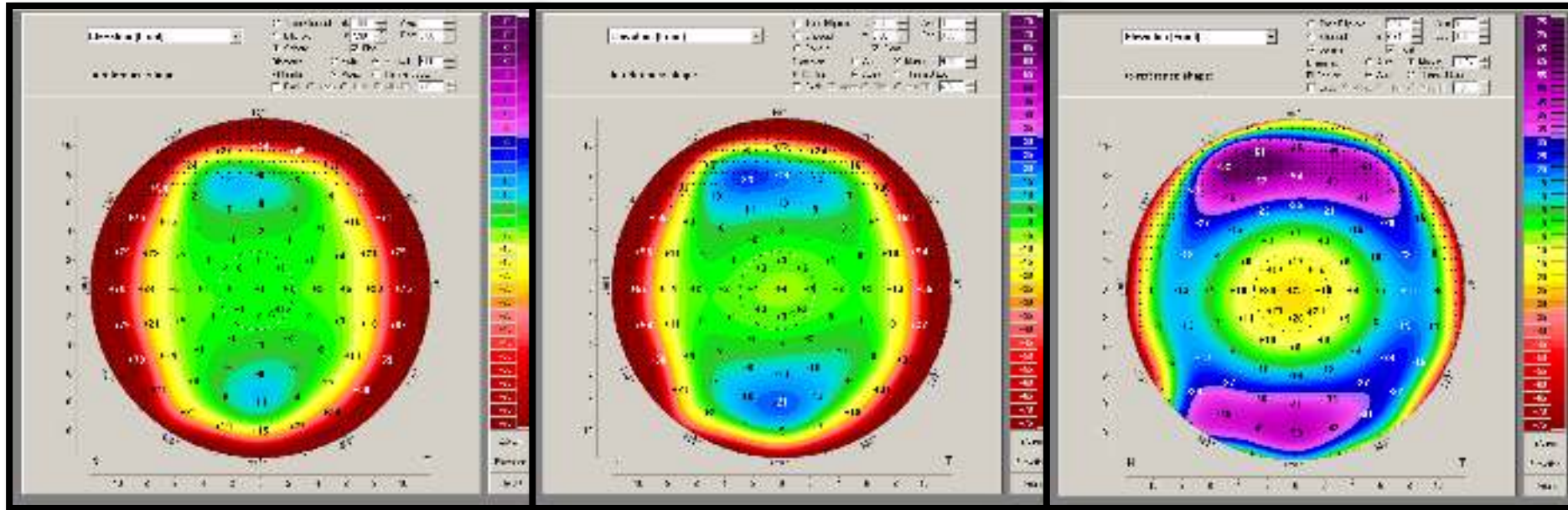


# Problem Normal Eye is Aspheric



A “normal” eye will show a “positive island of elevation” if compared against a best-fit-sphere utilizing the entire cornea

# Why do we use an 8.0 mm optical zone for the BFS



Diameter = 7.0 mm

Diameter = 9.0 mm

Diameter = 11.94 mm

A BFS from the central 8.0 mm hides the normal asphericity of the cornea

A desert landscape featuring a large saguaro cactus on the right side. The foreground and middle ground are filled with low-lying desert shrubs and bushes, many of which are covered in a layer of white snow or frost. The ground is a mix of brown soil and white patches. In the background, there are more desert hills and a range of mountains under a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. The text "End of Part 2" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

End of Part 2

# Pellucid Marginal Degeneration

Michael W. Belin, M.D.,

*Professor of Ophthalmology & Vision Science*

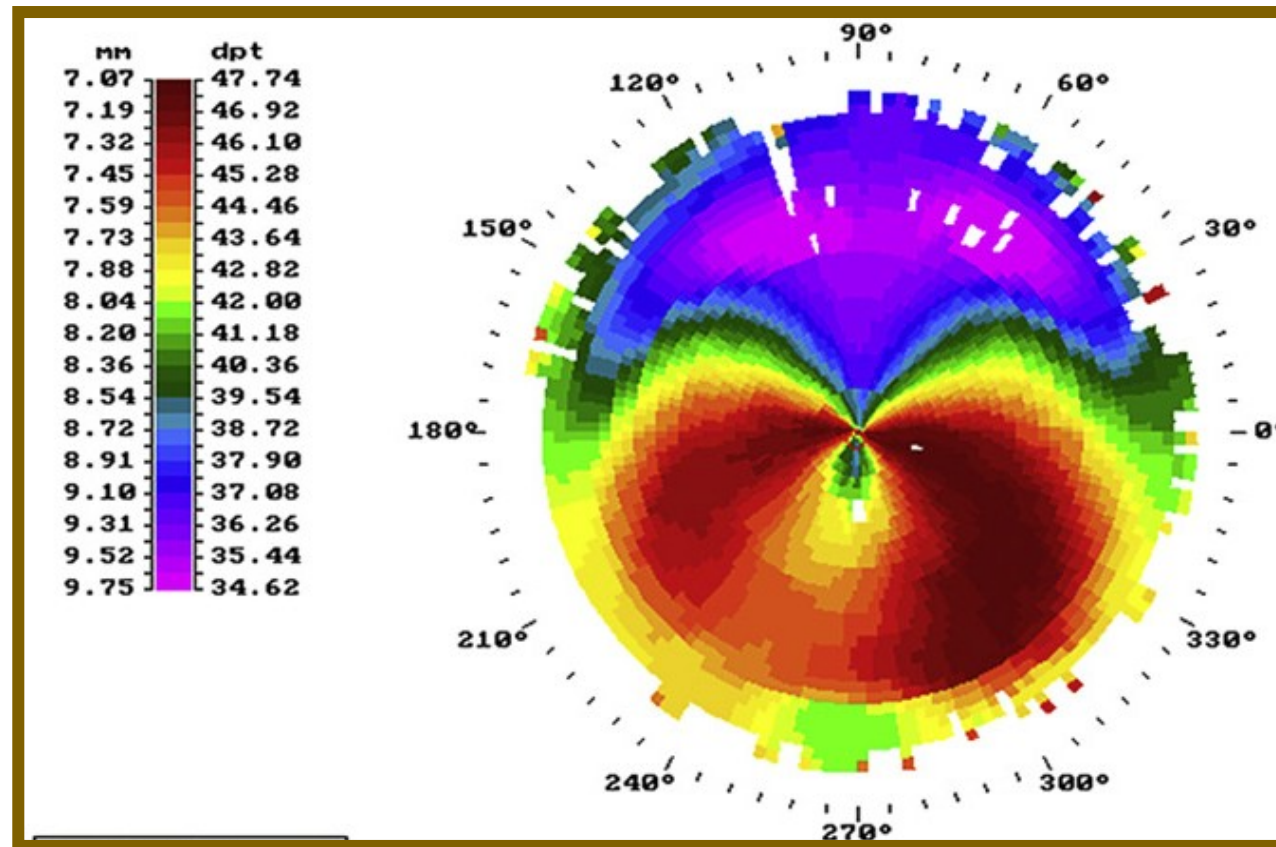
*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (USA)*

Consultant OCULUS GmbH

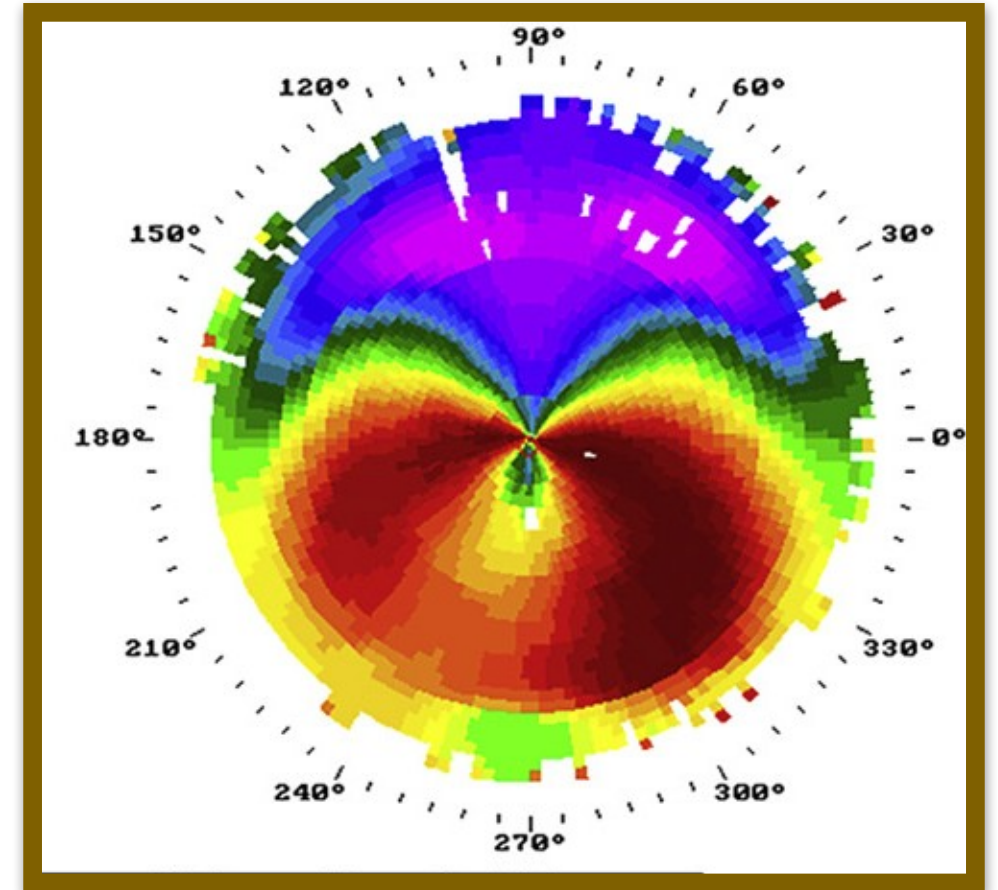
CMO - EPION Therapeutics



# How to Diagnose Pellucid Marginal Degeneration

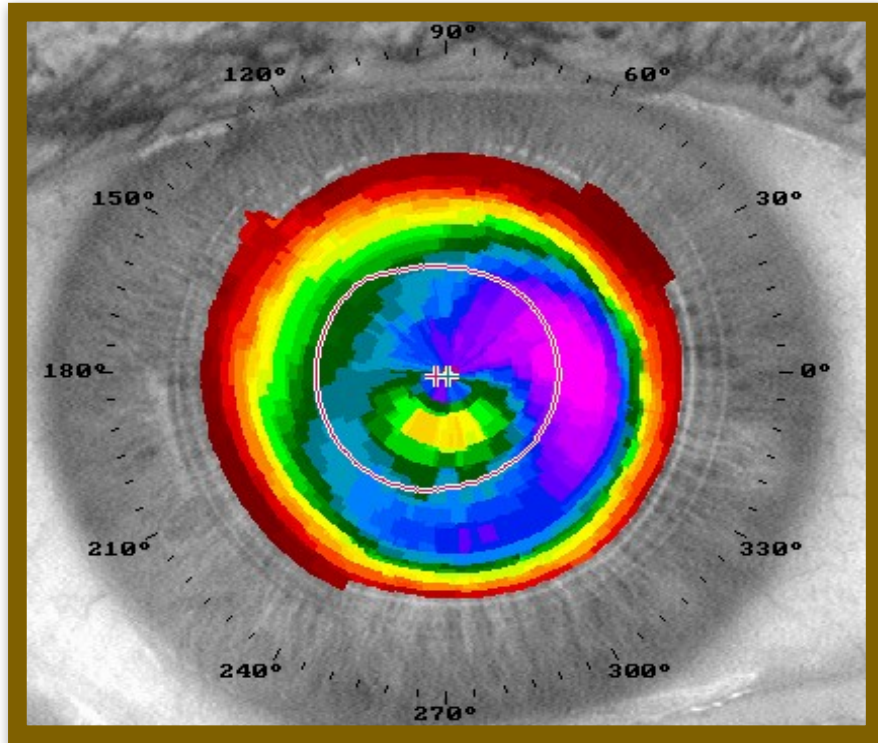


- Curvature patterns such as “*Crab Claw*” are measurement (curvature) anomalies and do not represent peripheral shape changes
  - Almost all “topographic” PMD is just inferior keratoconus



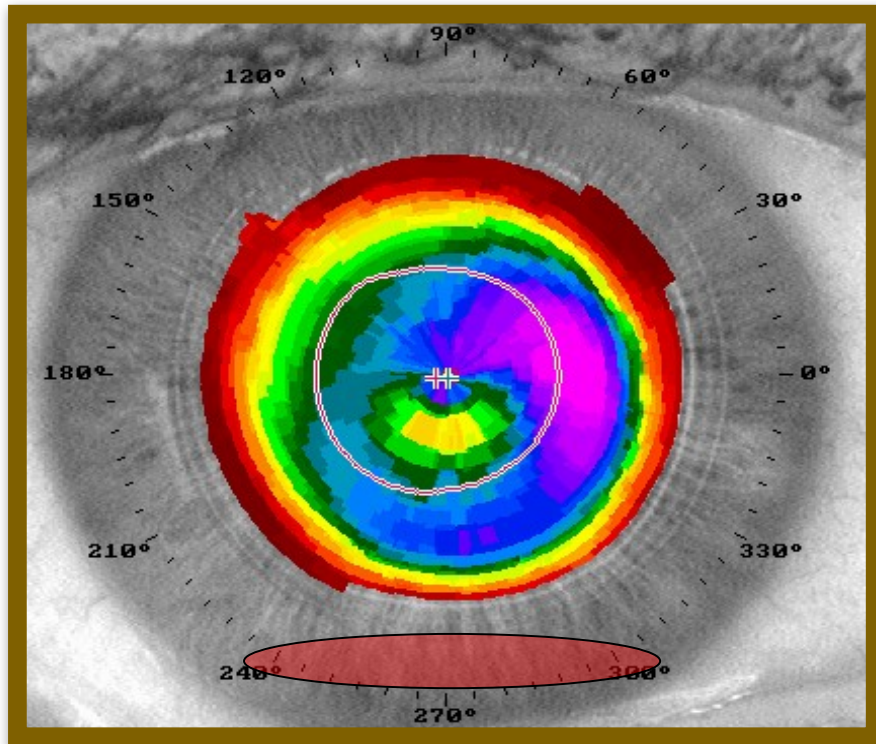
# Pseudo PMD

- Placido systems are limited to covering  $< 60\%$  of the cornea surface under optimal conditions
  - Cannot image where pathology is
    - Pellucid (PMD)
  - Limited by the eye

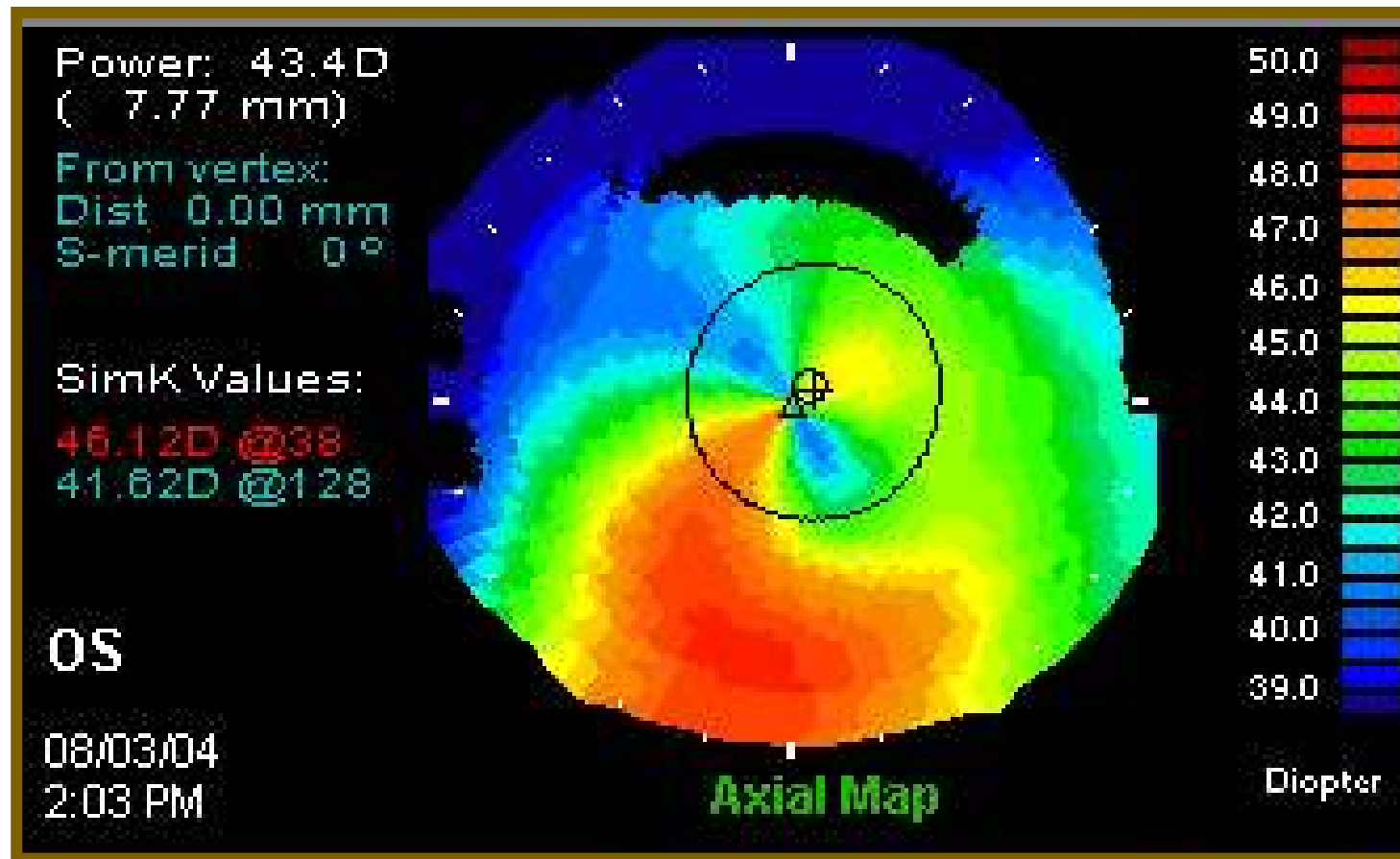


# Pseudo PMD

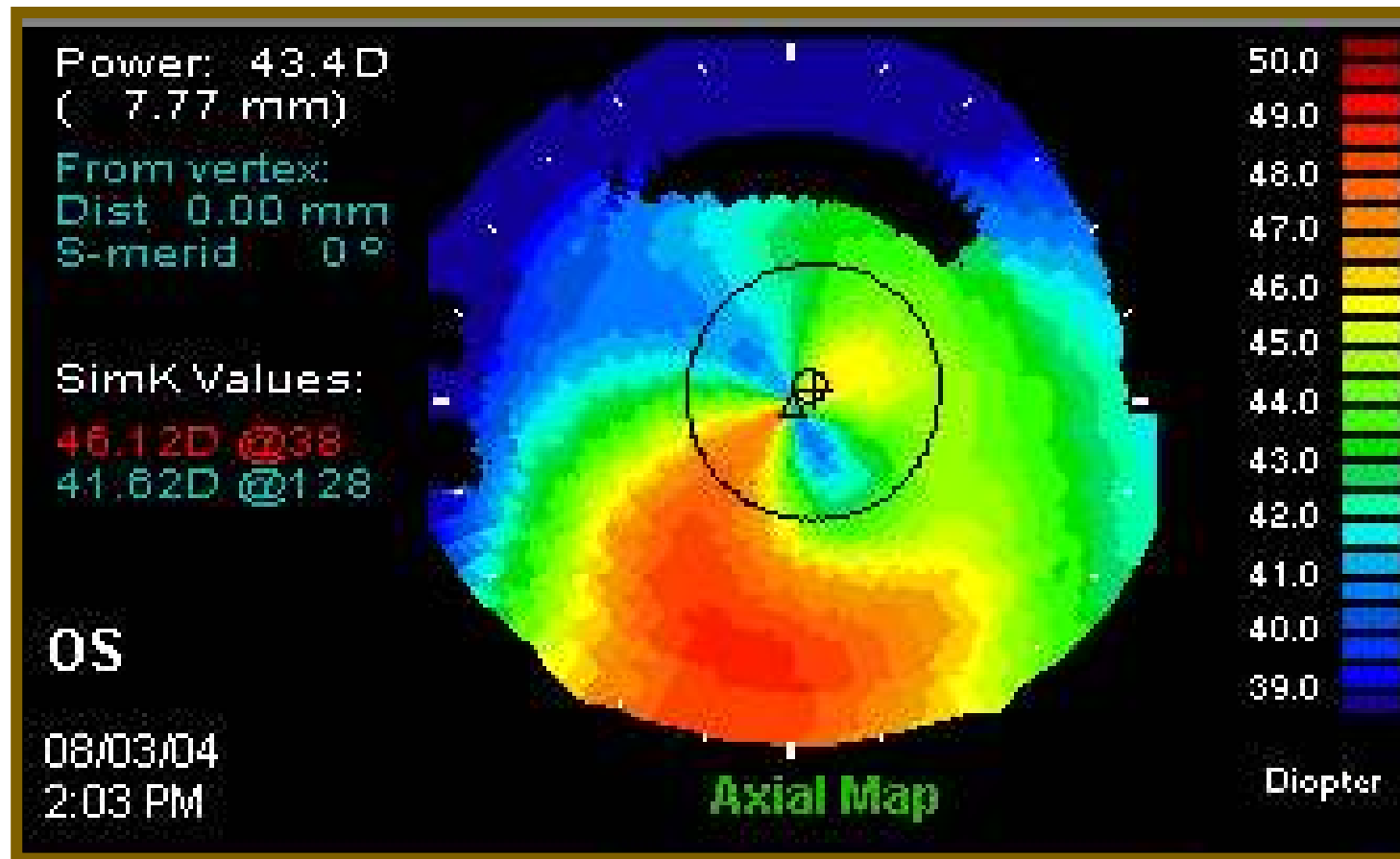
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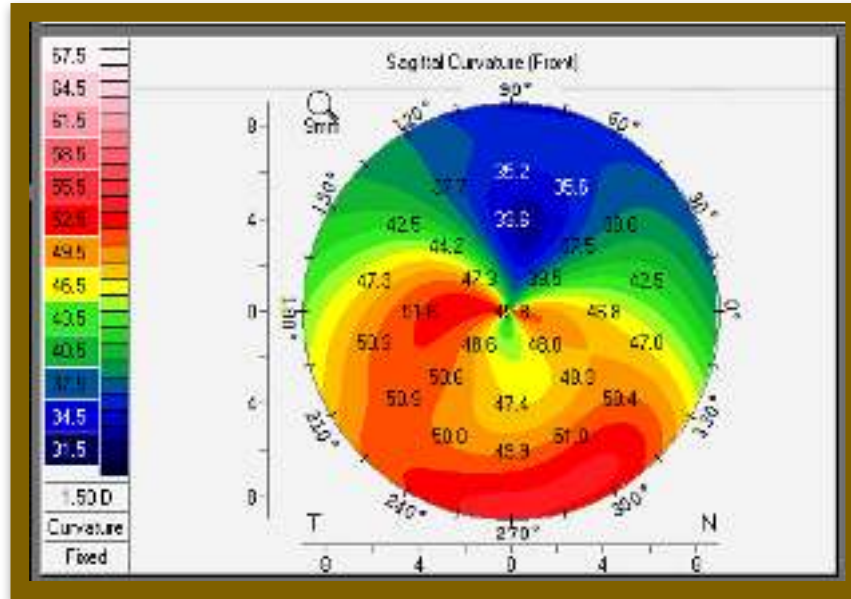
# PMD, more often than not, equals



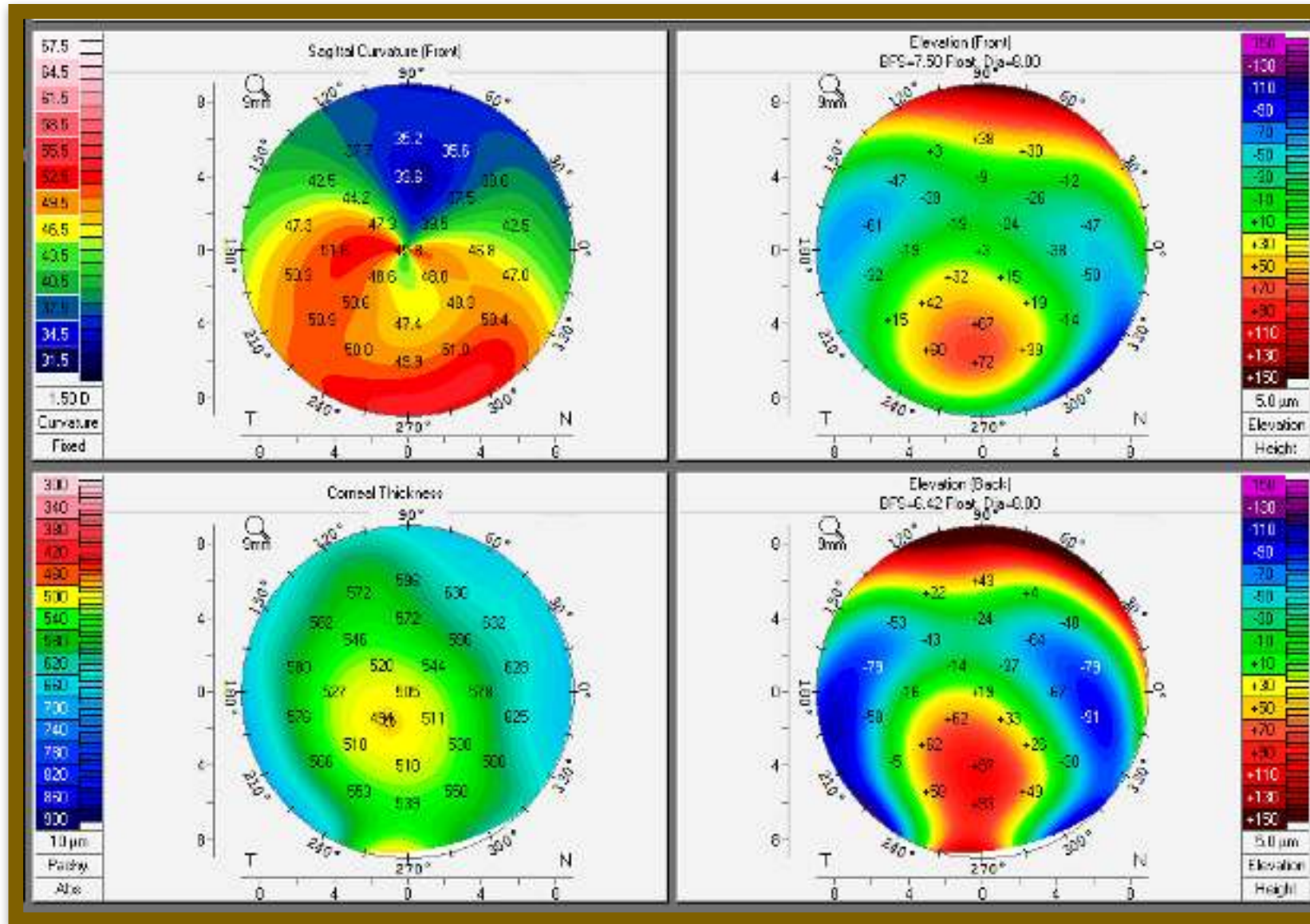
# *“Placido Marginal Degeneration”*



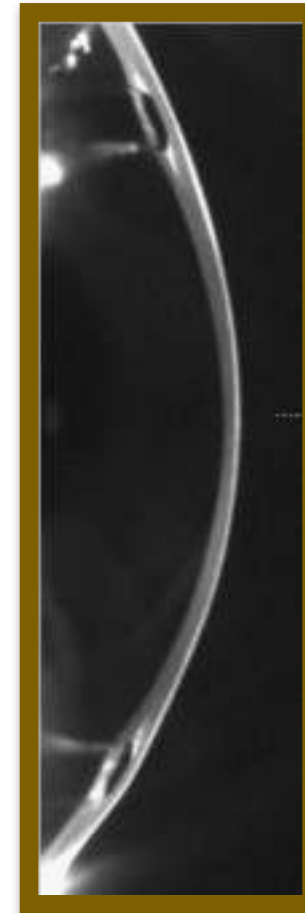
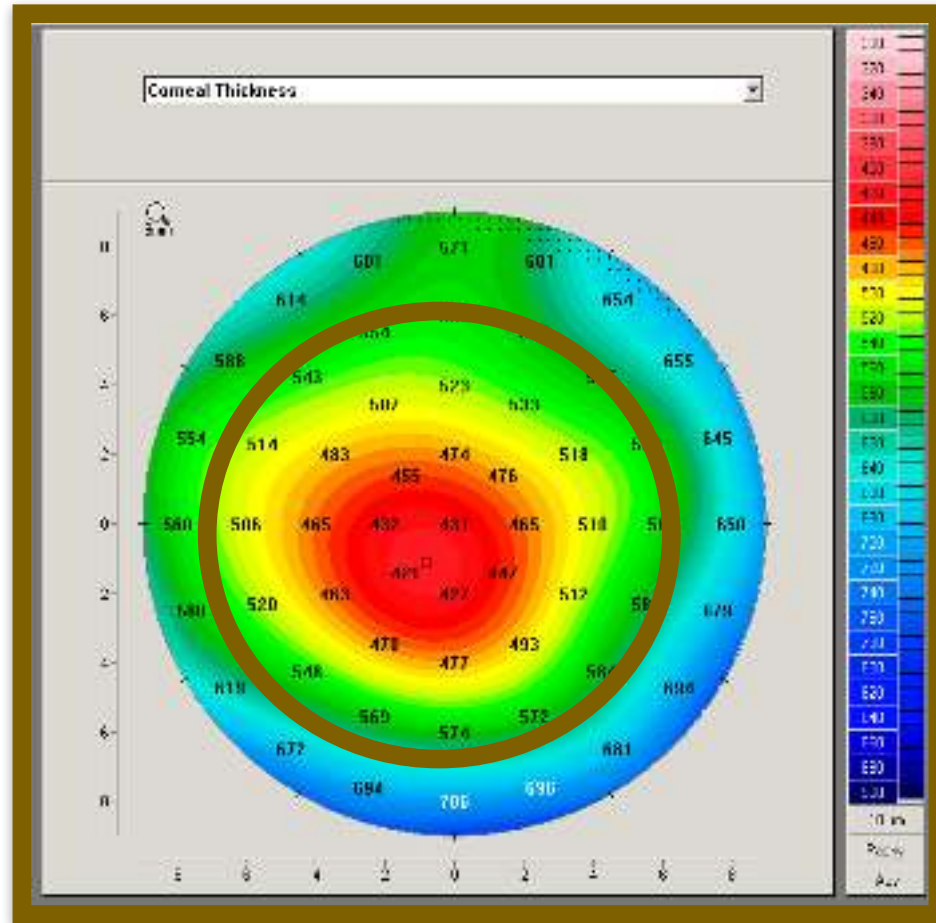
# Pseudo PMD



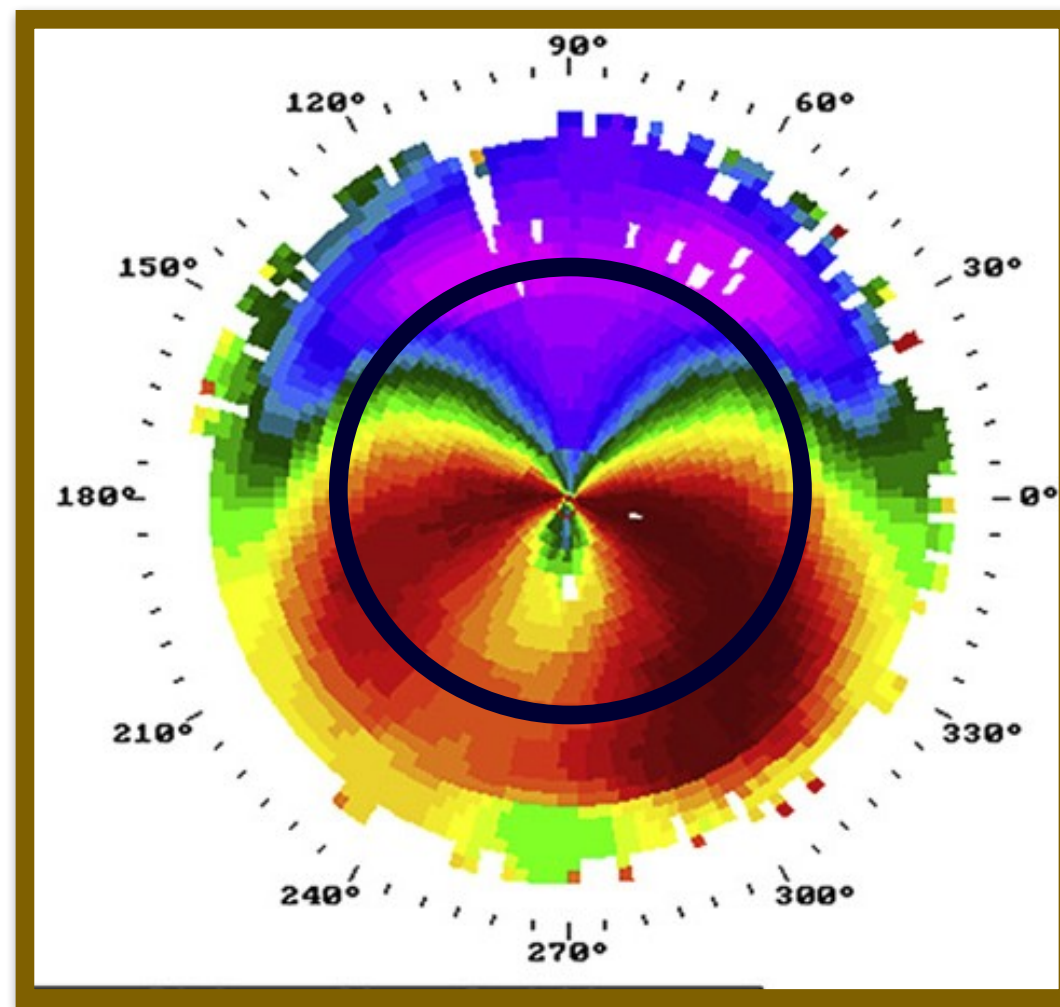
# Pseudo PMD



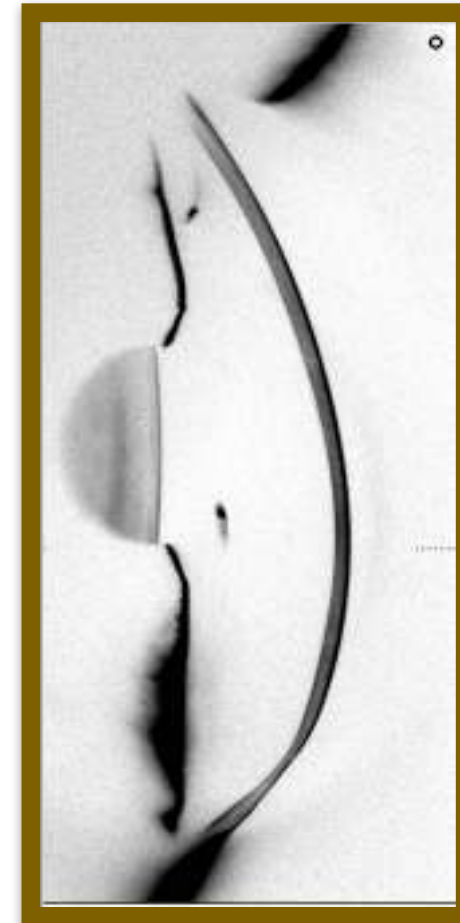
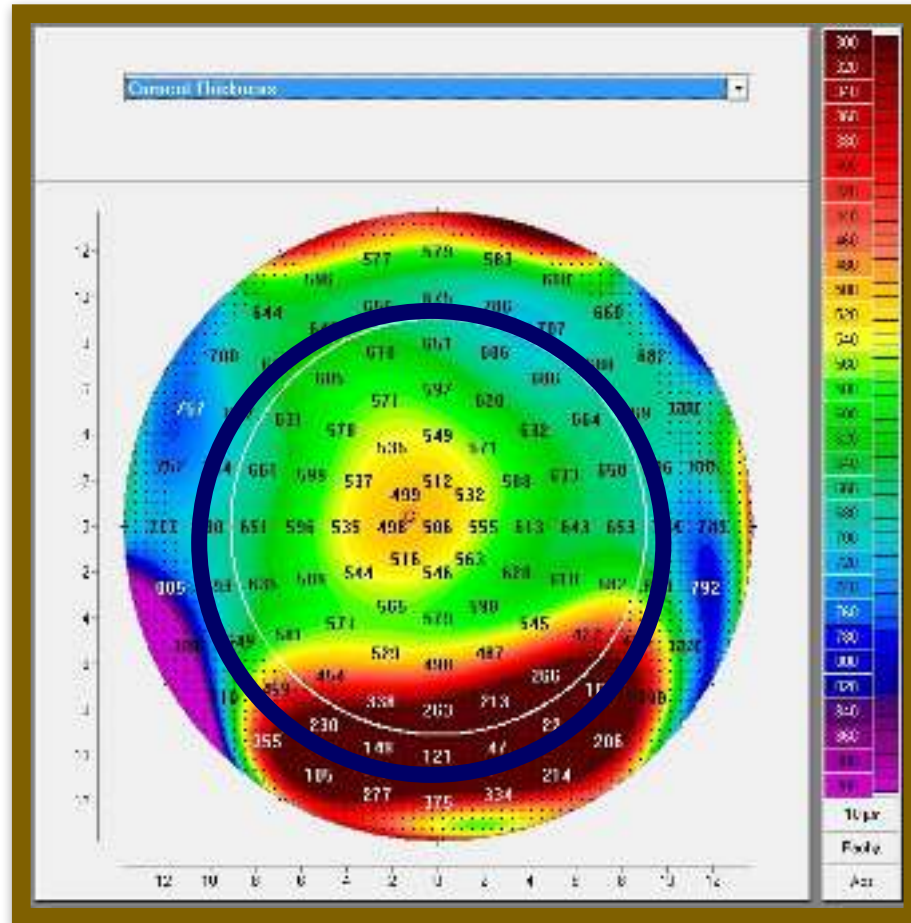
# ICR in True KCN



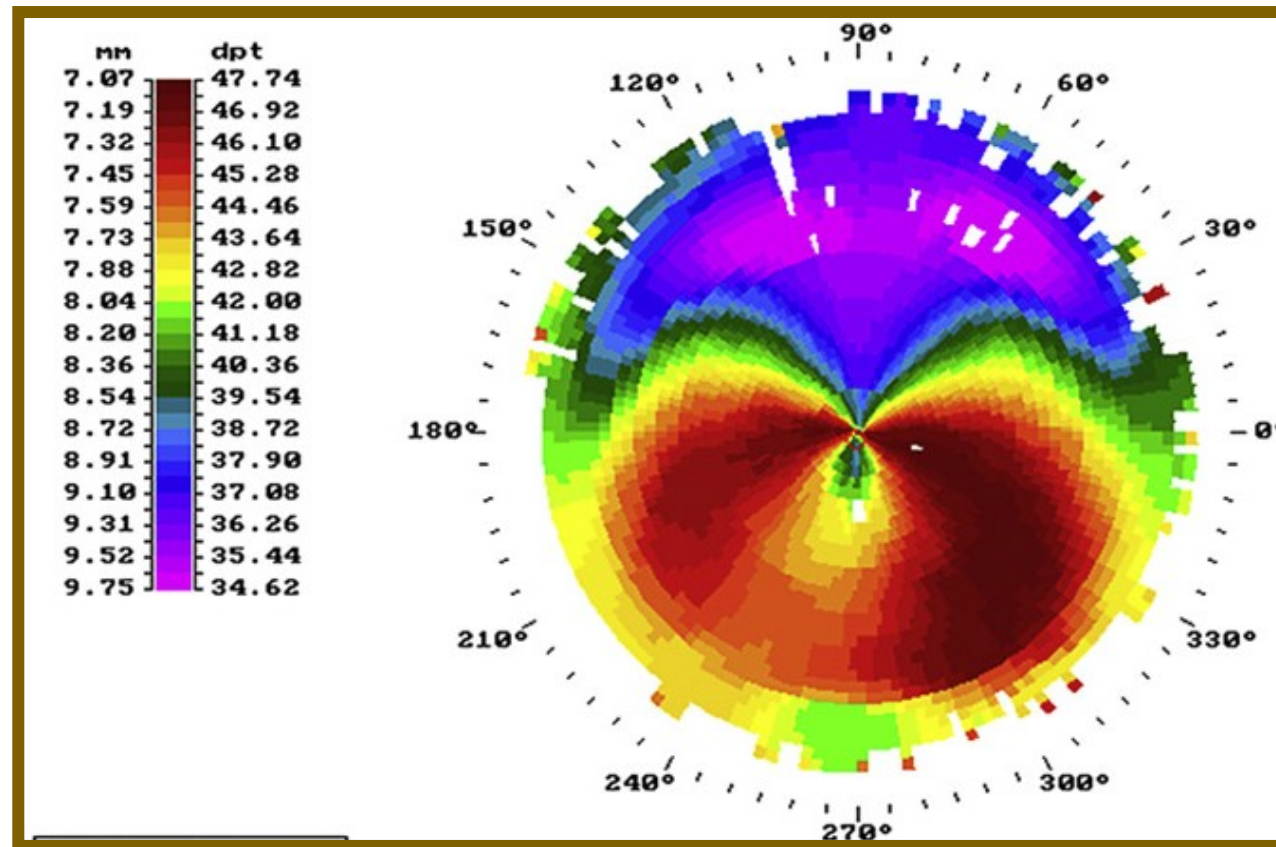
# People suggest ICR in PMD



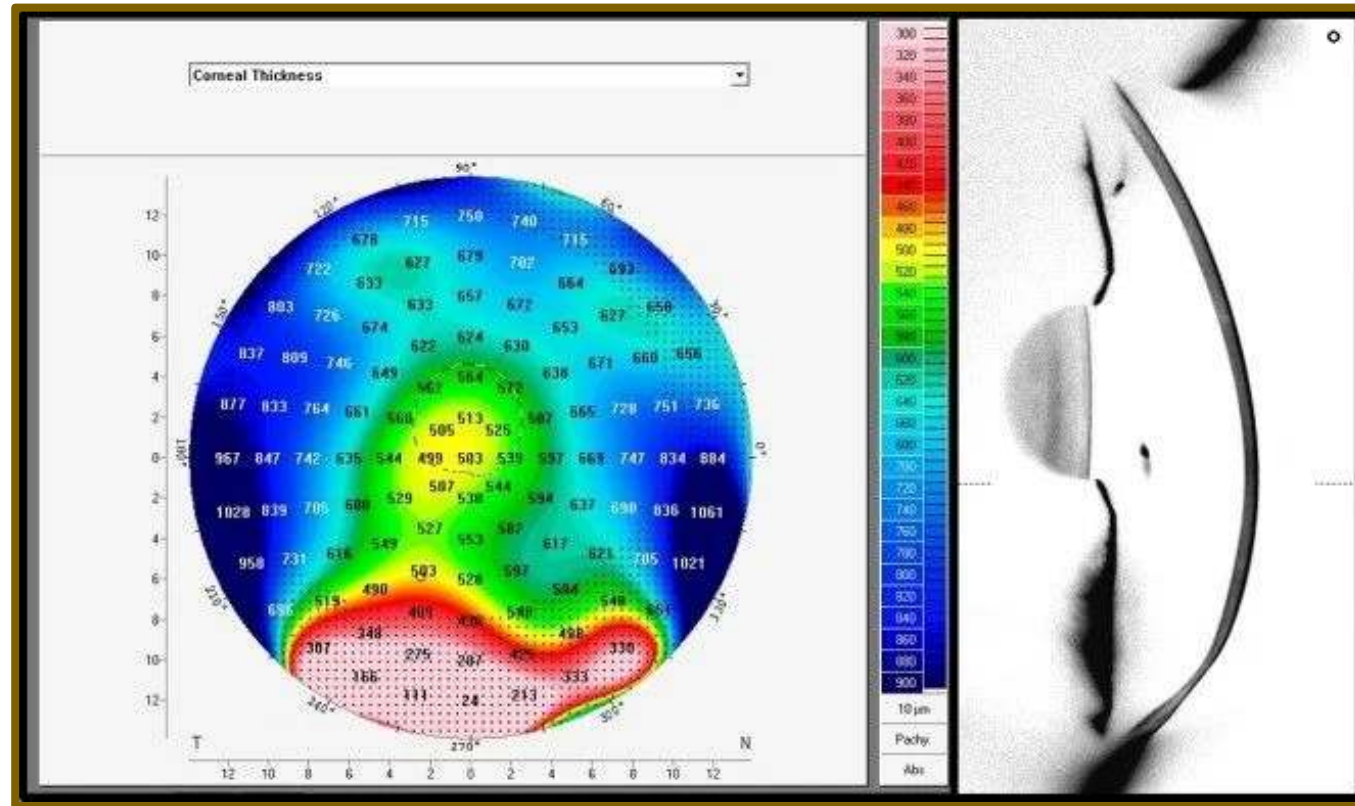
# ICR in True PMD Contraindicated



# How to Diagnose Pellucid Marginal Degeneration

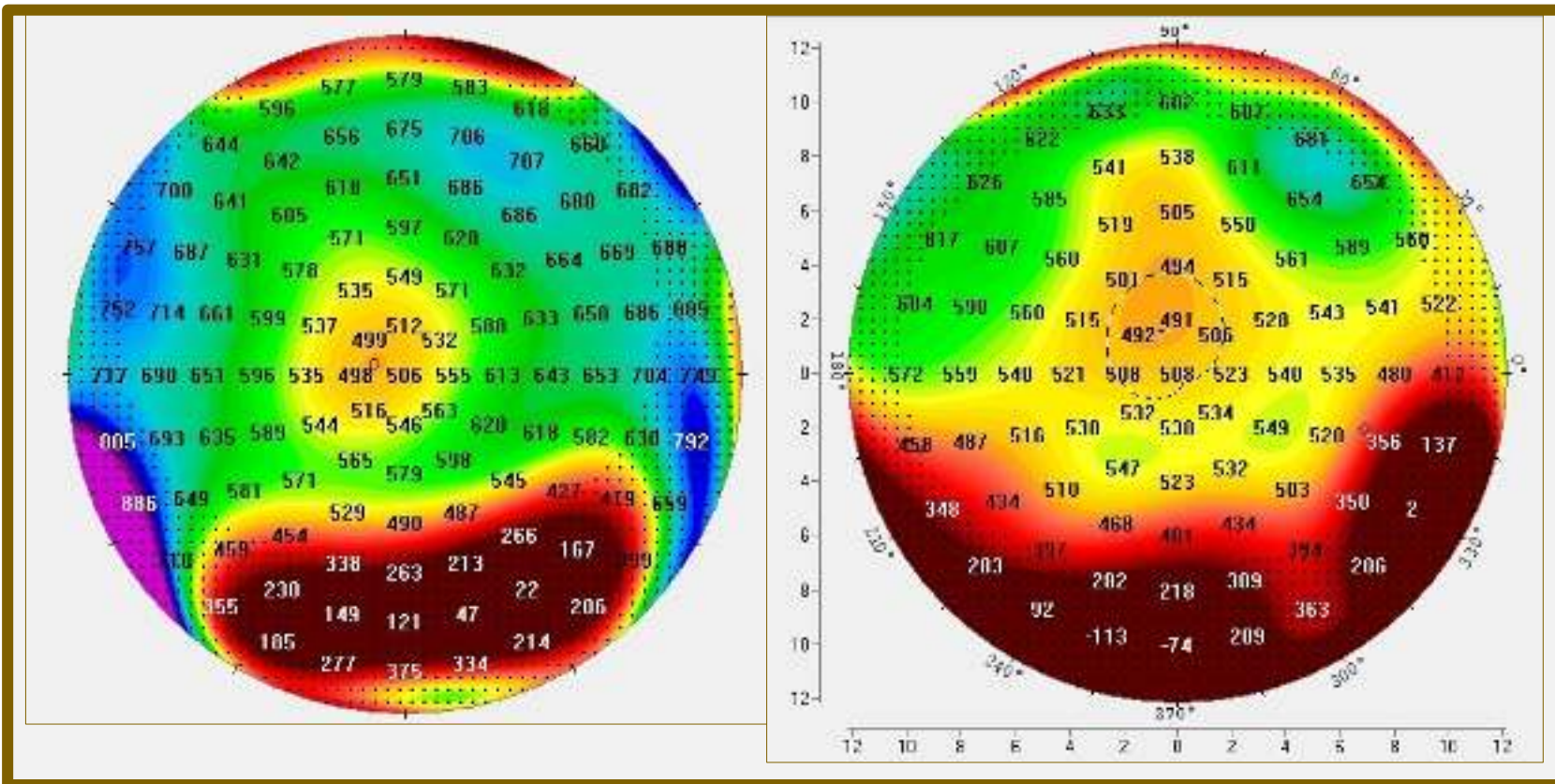


# How to Diagnose Pellucid Marginal Degeneration



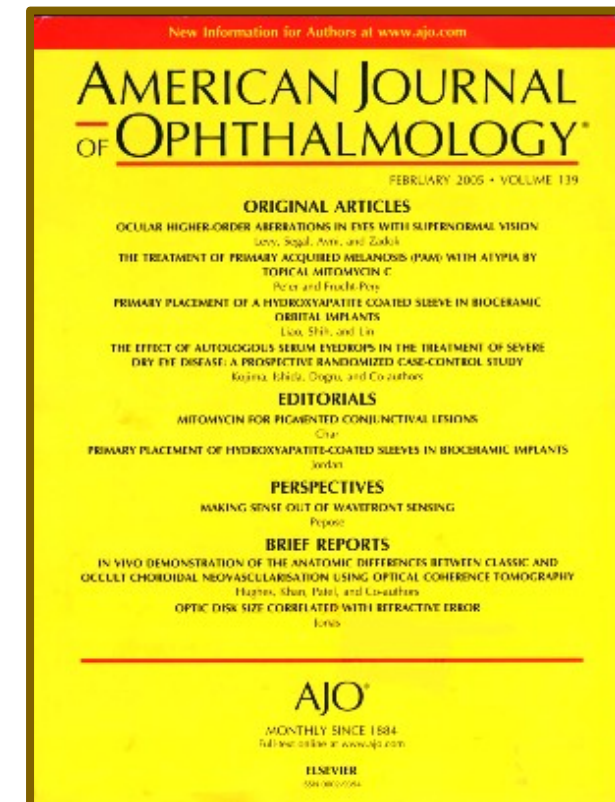
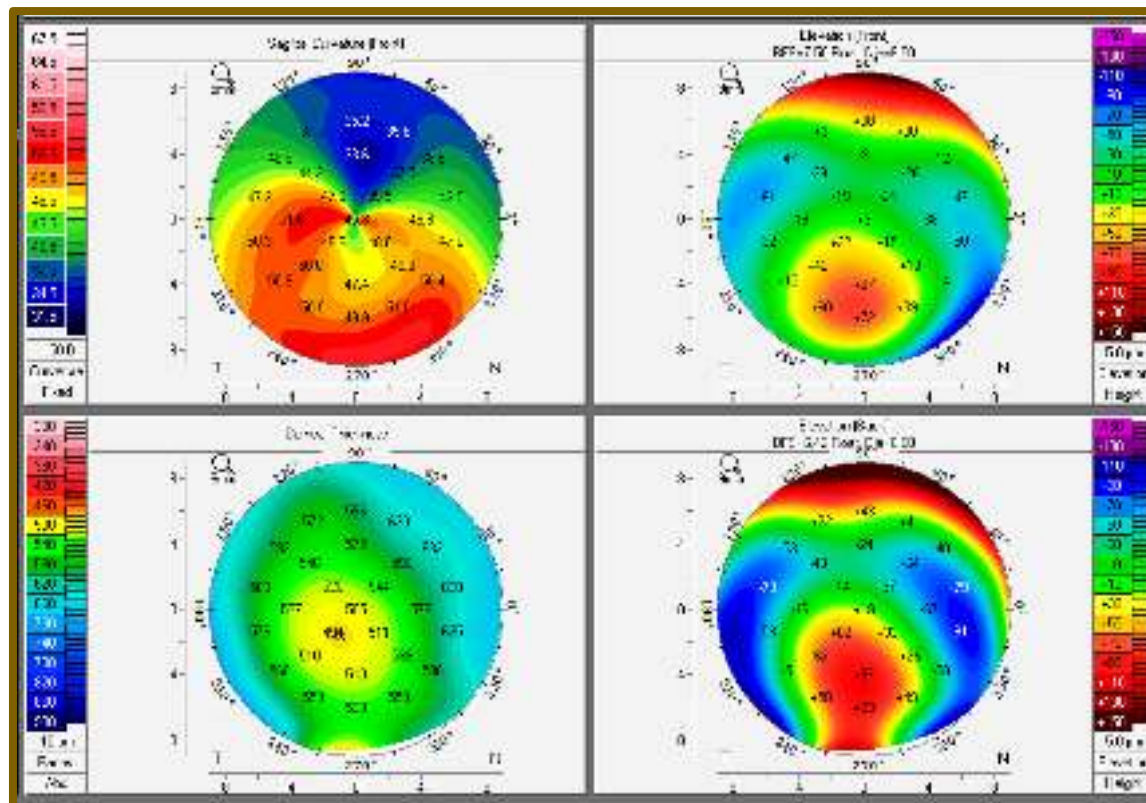
You need to look at a FULL PACYMETRIC map opened up to 12 mm

Walker RN, Khackikian SS, Belin MW.  
Scheimpflug Imaging of Pellucid Marginal Degeneration.  
CORNEA 2008 Sep; 27(8):963-6

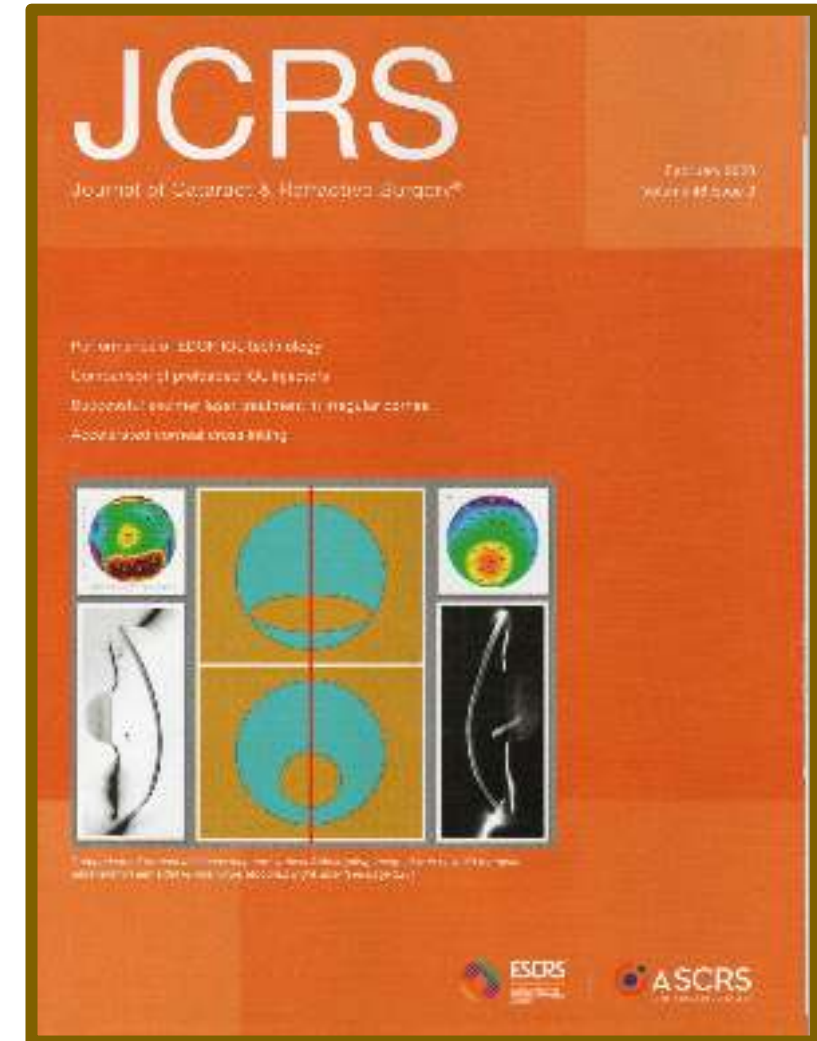
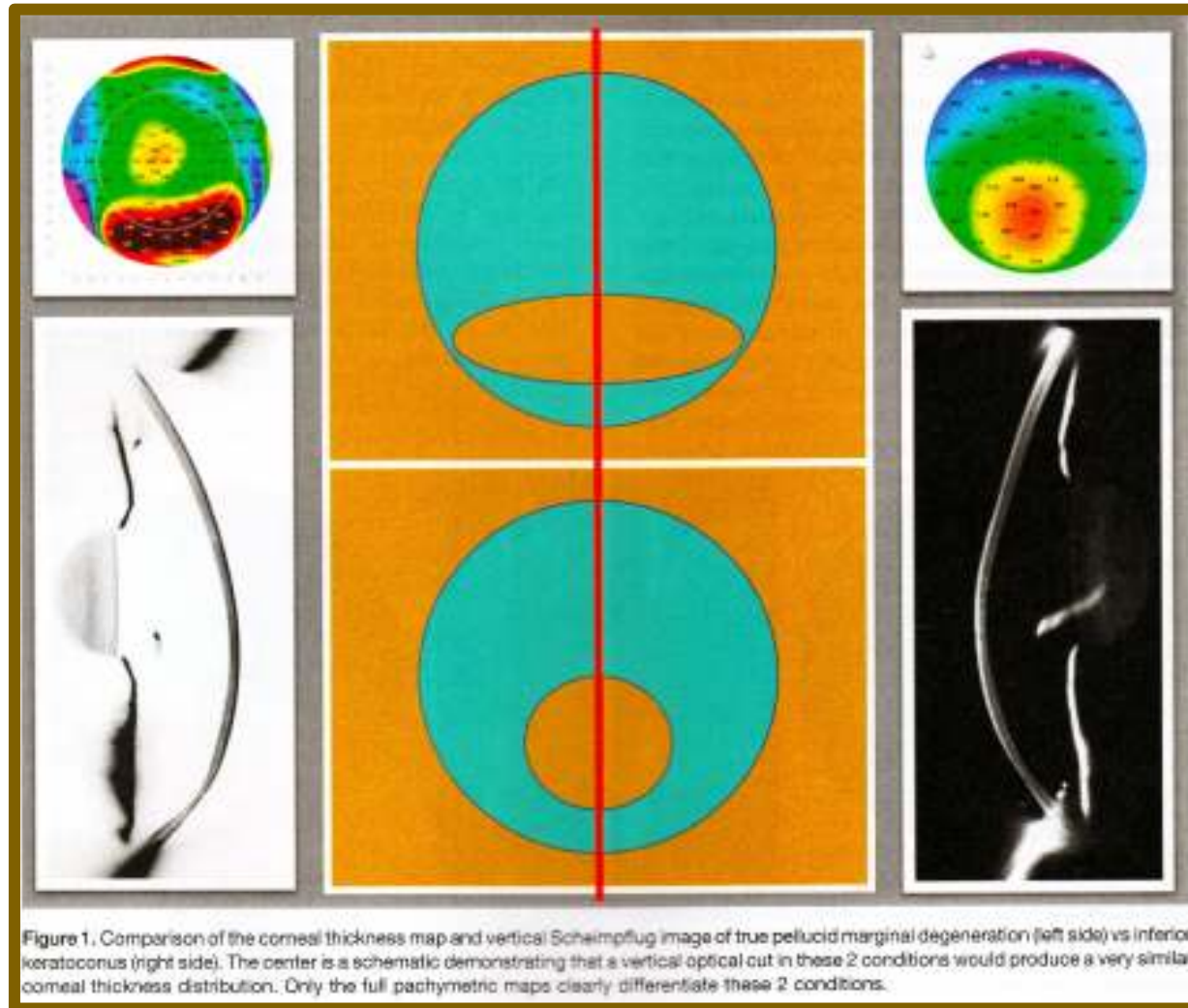


# What's in a Name: *Keratoconus, Pellucid Marginal Degeneration, and Related Thinning Disorders*

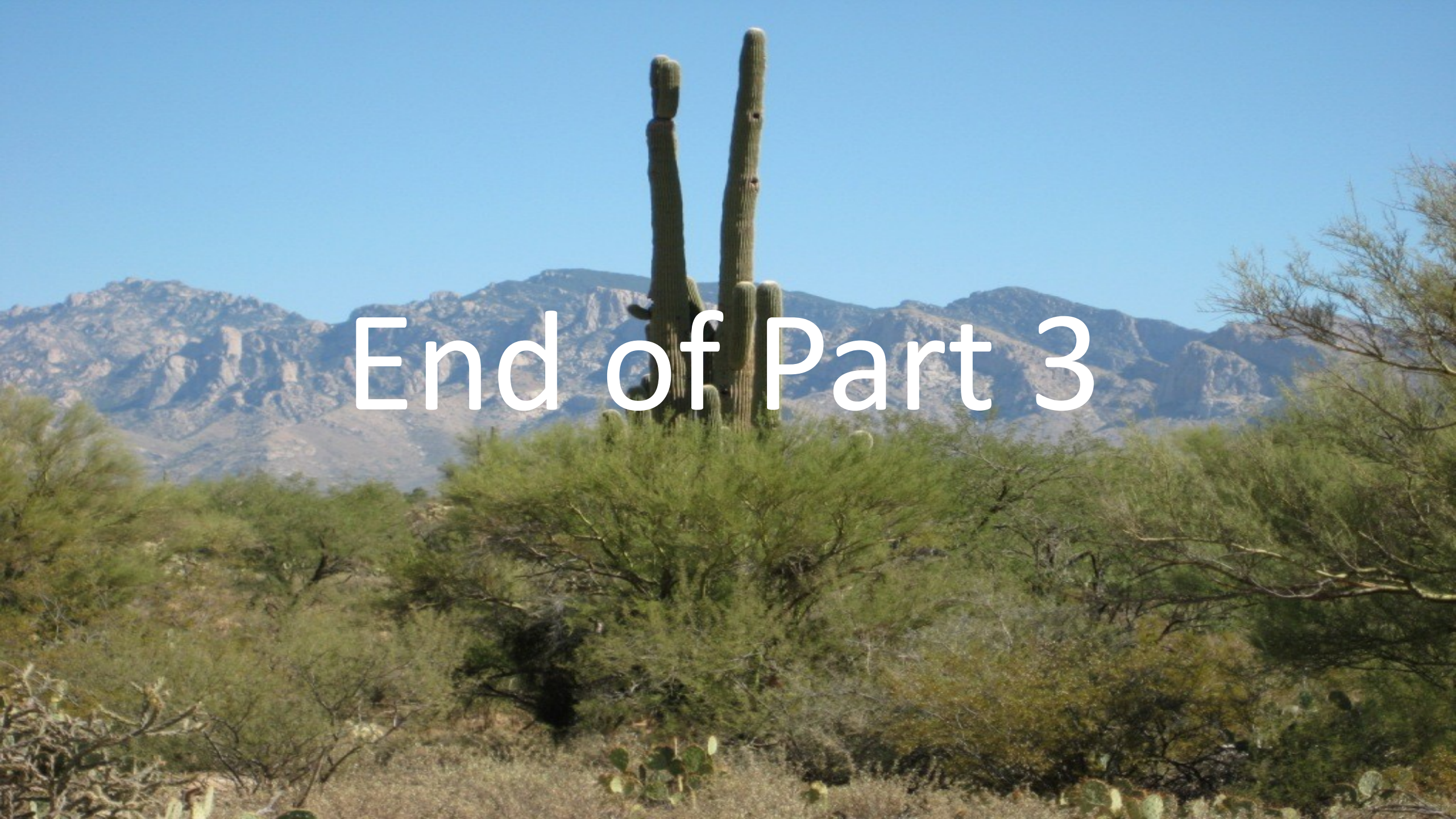
Belin MW, Asota IM, Ambrosio R, Khachikian SS. Am J Ophthalmol 2011; ; 152(2): 157-162



# Even a single Scheimpflug image can be misleading



Belin MW, Boyd BM, Ambrosio R Jr. Pellucid marginal degeneration vs inferior keratoconus: why it matters. J Cat Refract Surg. 2020;46: 325-326

A desert landscape featuring a prominent Saguaro cactus with two arms in the center. The cactus is green and stands out against the background. In the foreground, there are dense green shrubs and some smaller cacti. The background shows a range of rugged, brown mountains under a clear blue sky. The text "End of Part 3" is overlaid in white, centered horizontally and partially covering the cactus and mountains.

End of Part 3

# Sensitivity vs Specificity : *Which is more important*

Michael W. Belin, M.D.,

*Professor of Ophthalmology & Vision Science*

*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (USA)*

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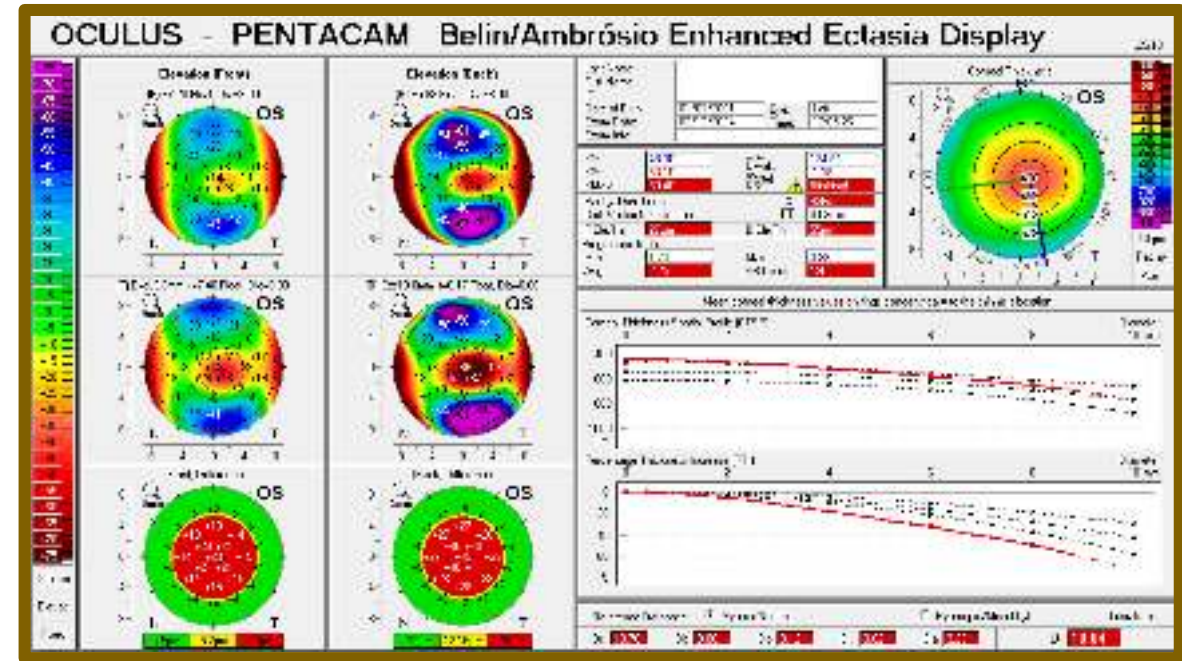
# Screening vs Diagnosing

- We need to understand the difference between screening for a disease and diagnosing a disease.



# Refractive Screening vs KCN Diagnosis

- The goal of refractive screening is to evaluate “RISK”
  - Eliminate those patients at risk for developing post-refractive ectasia
    - A 5% false positive rate is considered acceptable
      - Sensitivity over specificity
- Diagnosing Keratoconus
  - Specificity is most important



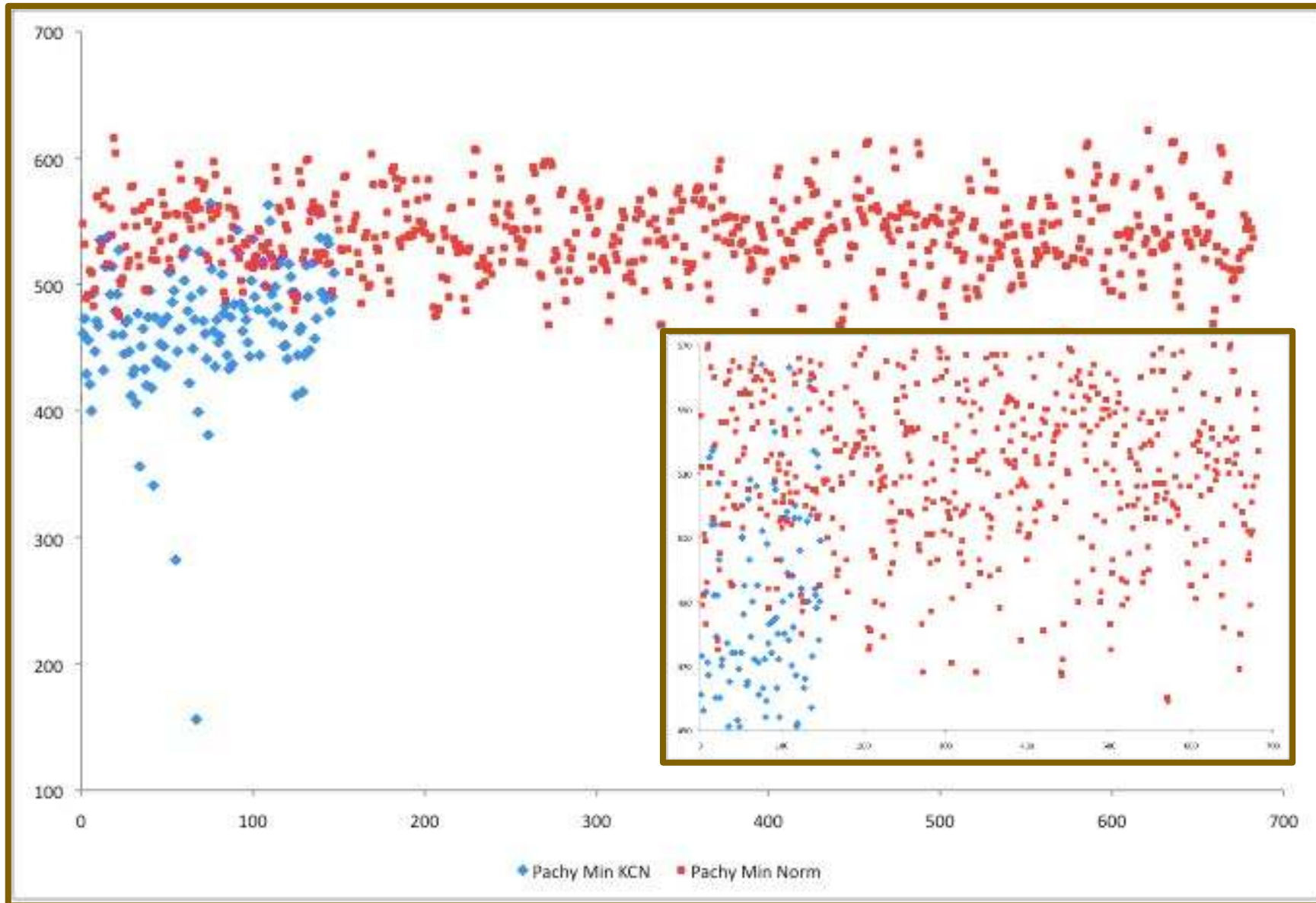
# Refractive Screening Sample

|                     | 95% CI / % KCN included | 97.5% CI / % KCN included |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 489 / 38 %              | 480 / 44 %                |
| Kmax                | 47.7 / 9.5 %            | 48.1 / 10 %               |
| Df                  | 1.66 / 6.8 %            | 2.14 / 10 %               |
| Db                  | 1.63 / 11 %             | 2.05 / 15 %               |
| Elev Front Thinnest | 4.0 / 4.8 %             | 5.0 / 6.1 %               |
| Elev Back Thinnest  | 12.0 / 6.1 %            | 13.0 / 6.1 %              |
| Plavg               | 1.14 / 4.1 %            | 1.18 / 6.1 %              |
| ARTmax              | 353 / 4.8 %             | 332 / 8.8 %               |
| Final "D"           | 1.65 / 0.7 %            | 1.88 / 0.7 %              |

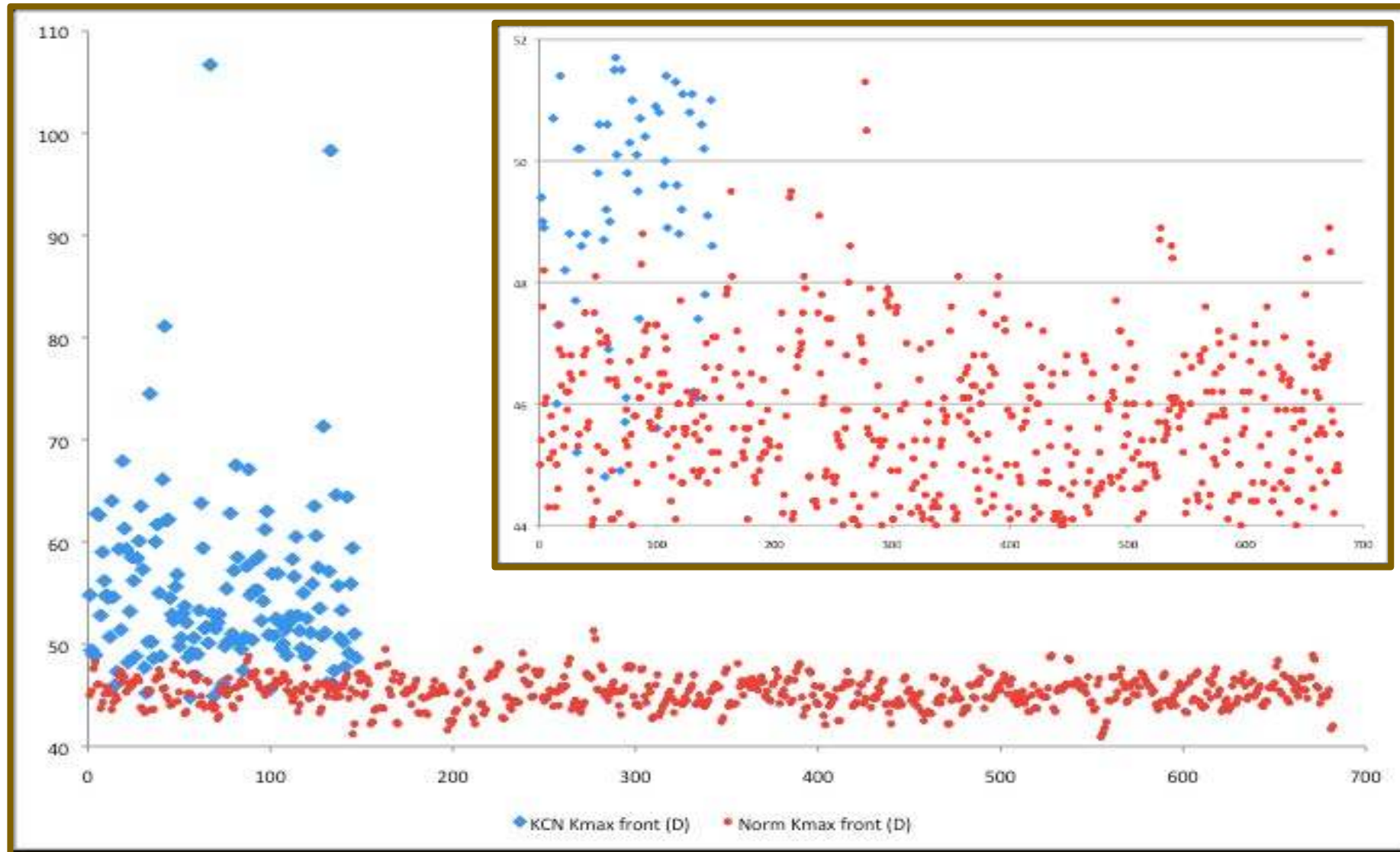
# Keratoconus Inclusion Criteria

|                     | 95% CI / % Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / % Normal Inc |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 538 / 49 %            | 558 / 73 %              |
| Kmax                | 46.1 / 31 %           | 45.3 / 55 %             |
| Df                  | 1.43 / 8.2 %          | -0.2 / 50 %             |
| Db                  | 1.0 / 13 %            | 0.48 / 23 %             |
| Elev Front Thinnest | 4.3 / 3.5 %           | -1.7 / 98.2 %           |
| Elev Back Thinnest  | 11.3 / 5.7 %          | 6.3 / 25.0 %            |
| Plavg               | 1.17 / 3.2 %          | 1.08 / 12 %             |
| ARTmax              | 354 / 5.3 %           | 376 / 11 %              |
| Final "D"           | 2.69 / 0 %            | 2.26 / 0.6 %            |

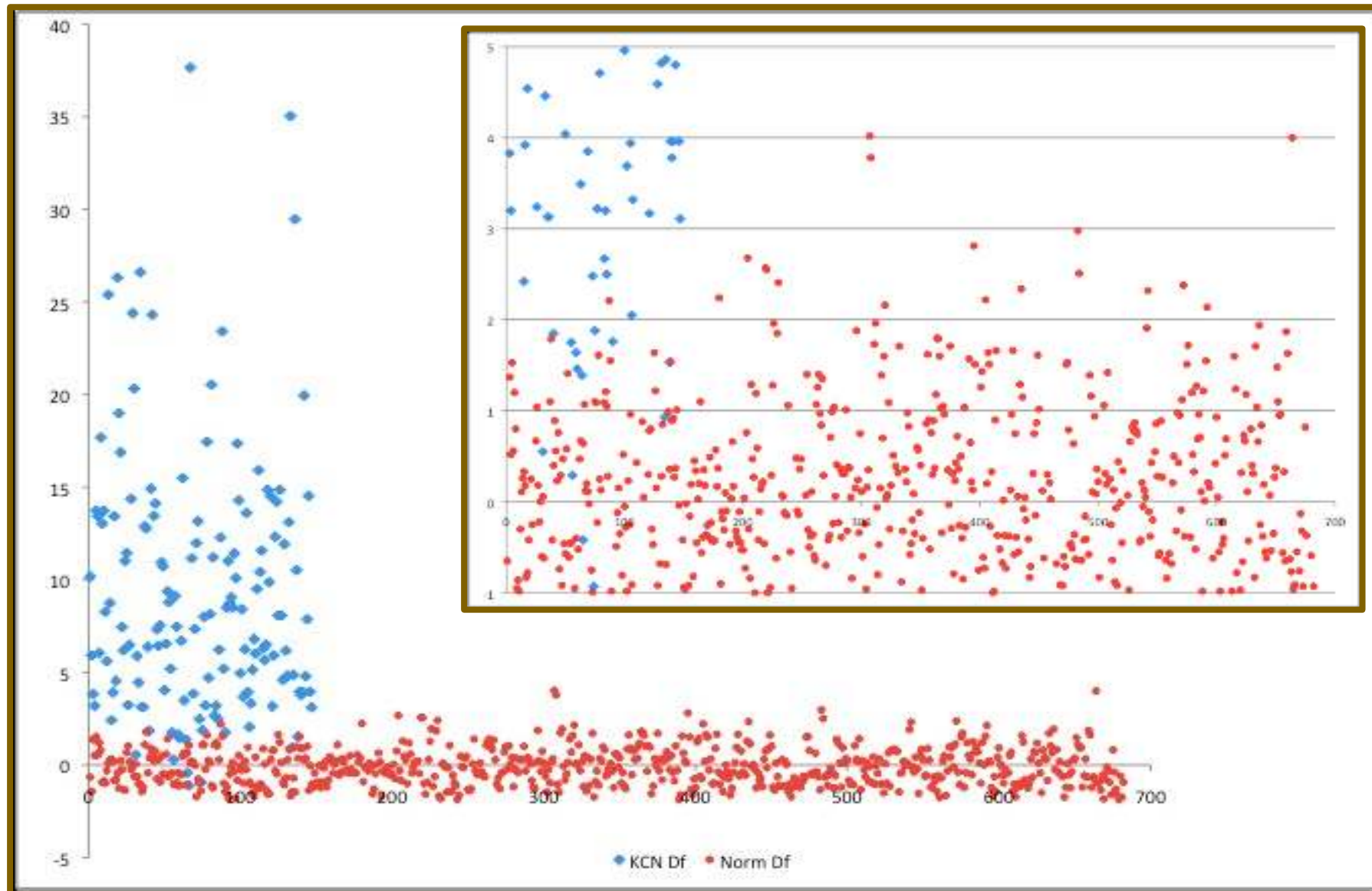
# Minimal Central Pachymetry



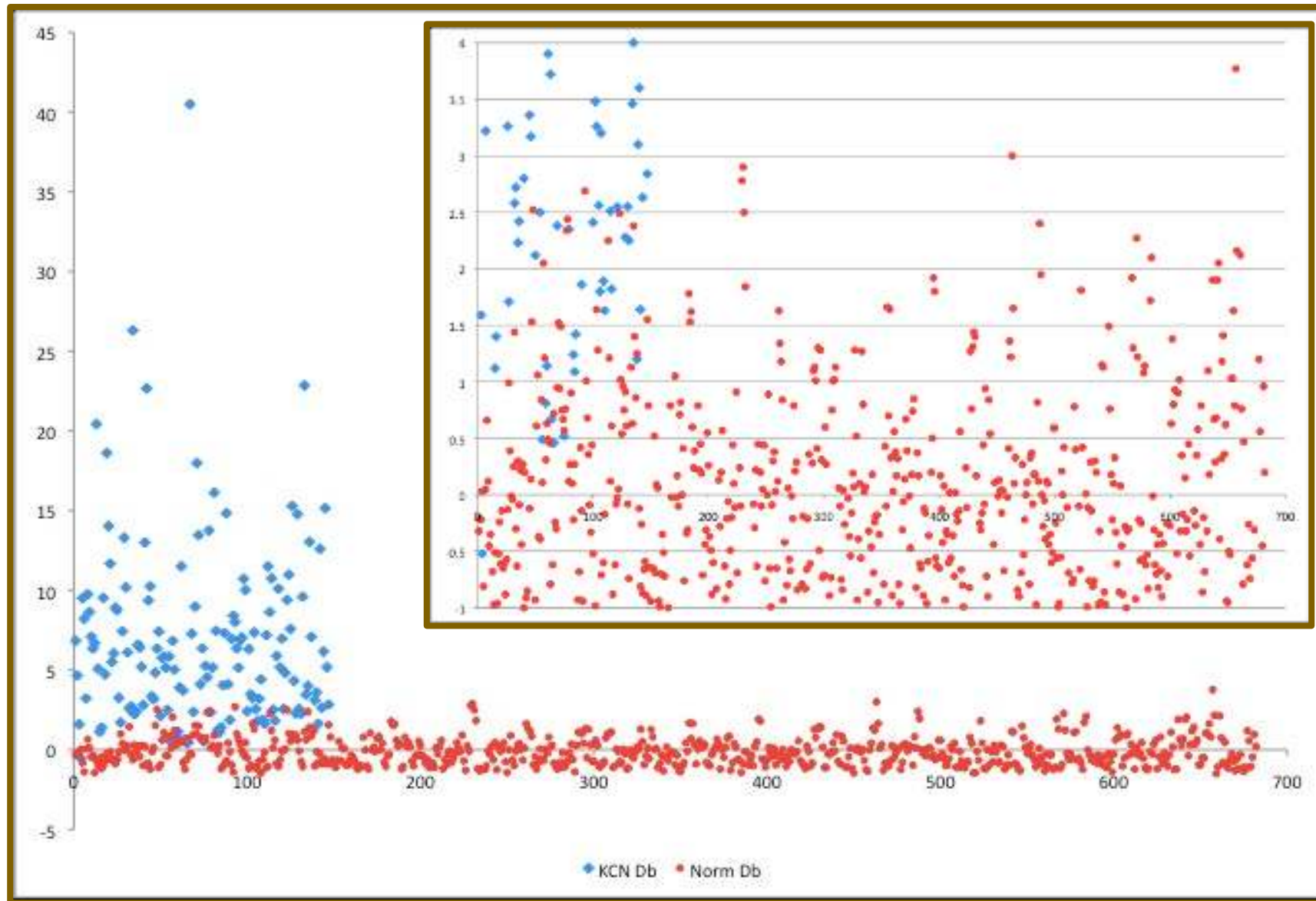
# Kmax



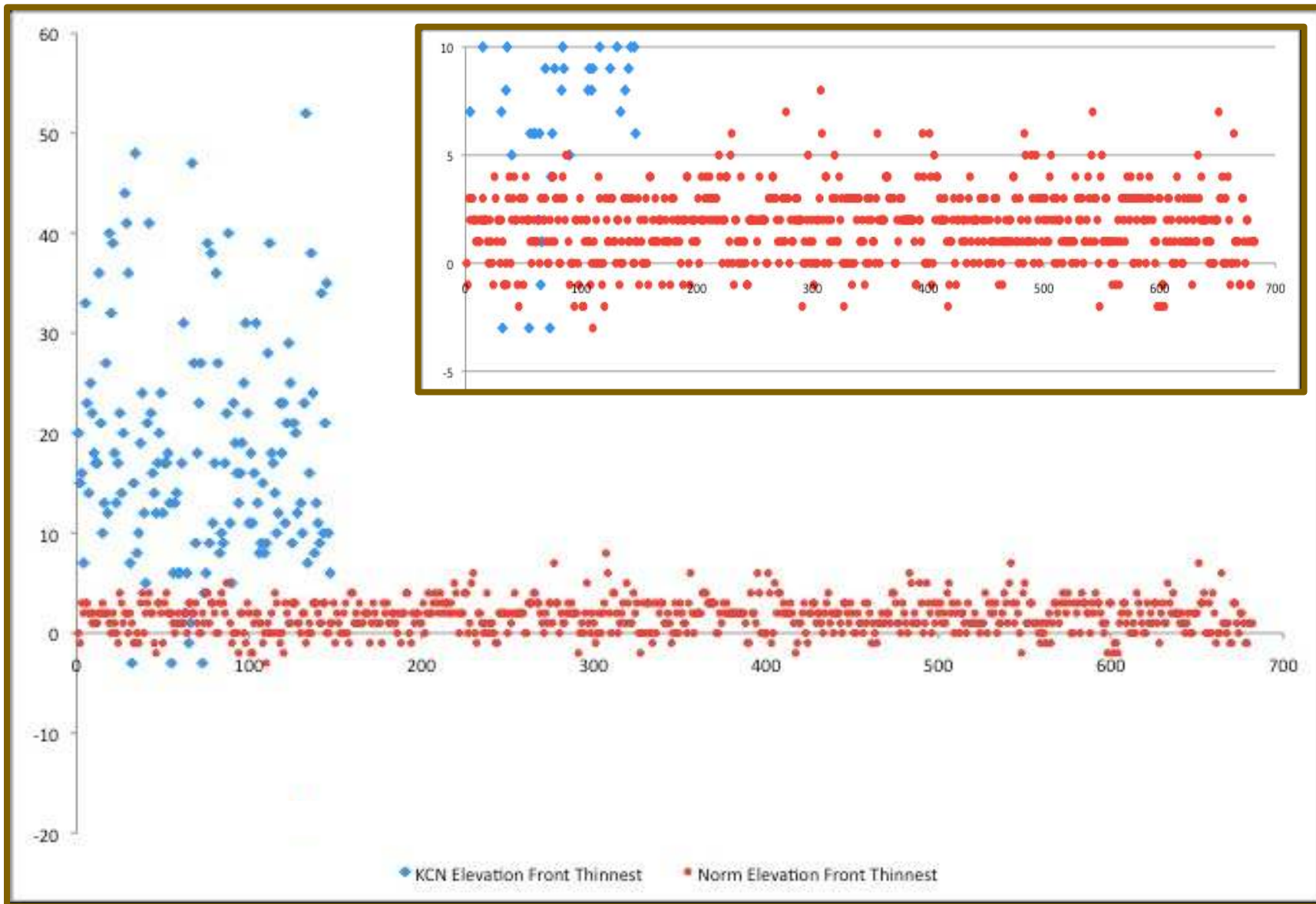
# Df (front elevation difference)



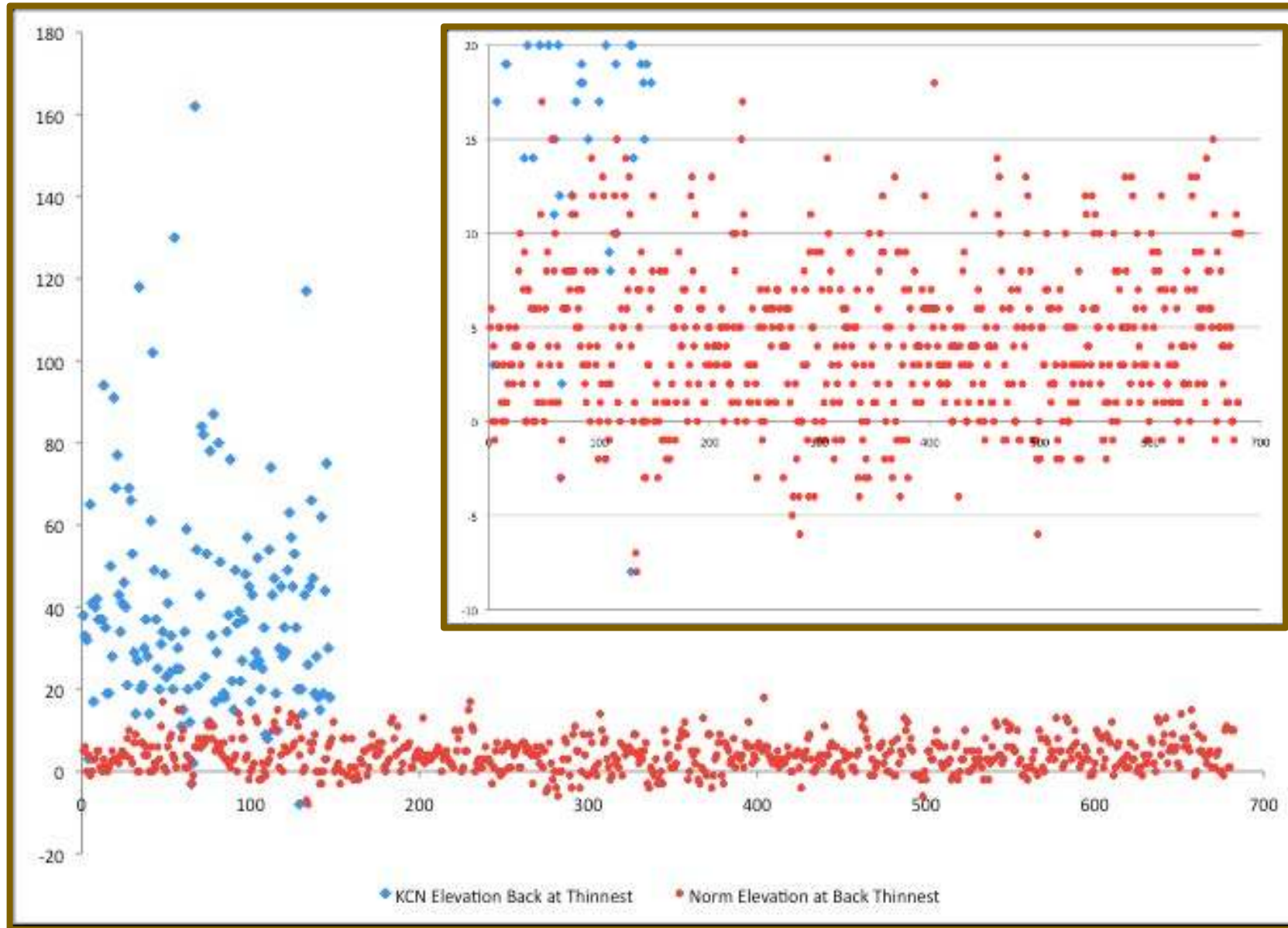
# Db (back elevation difference)



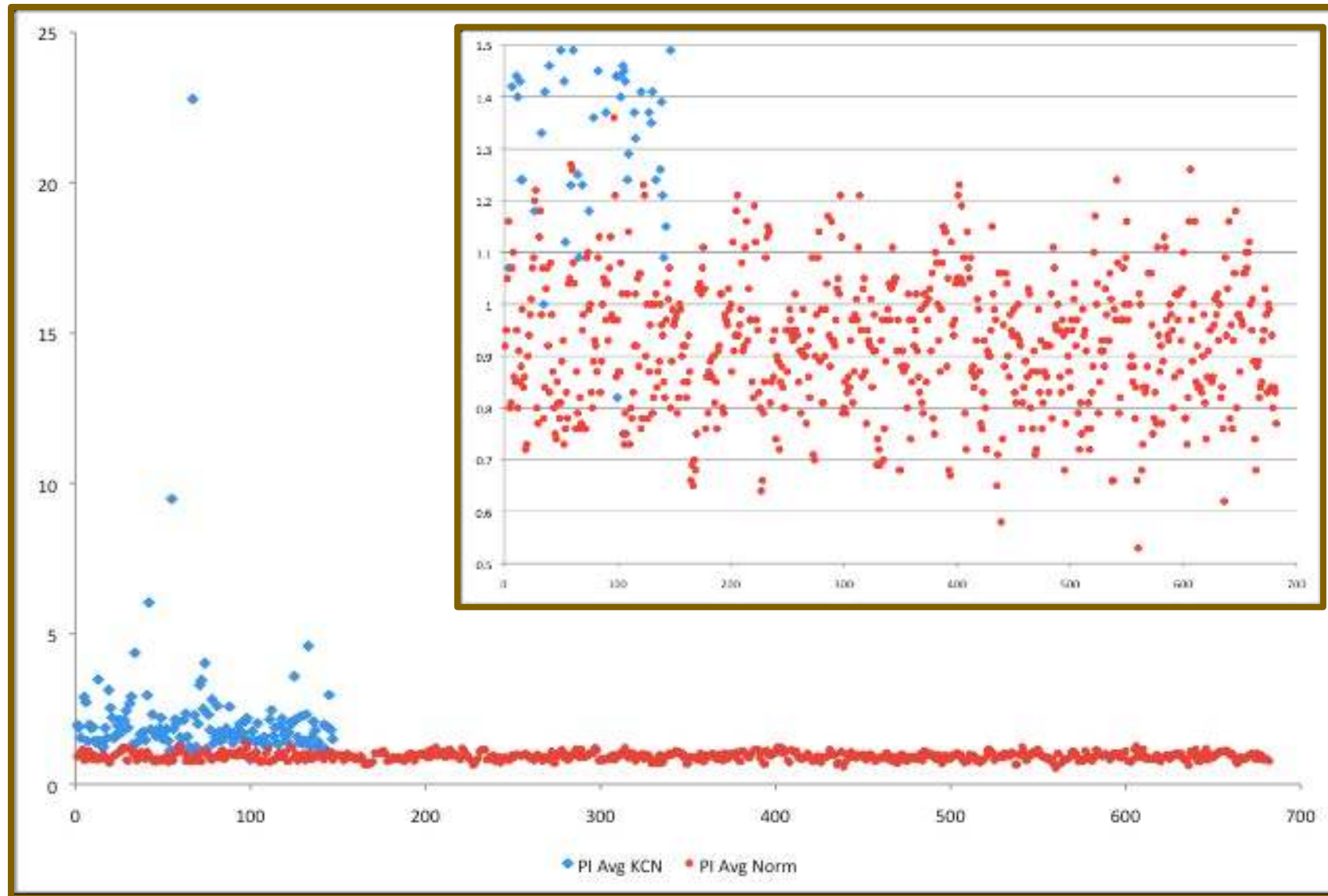
# Elevation Front Thinnest



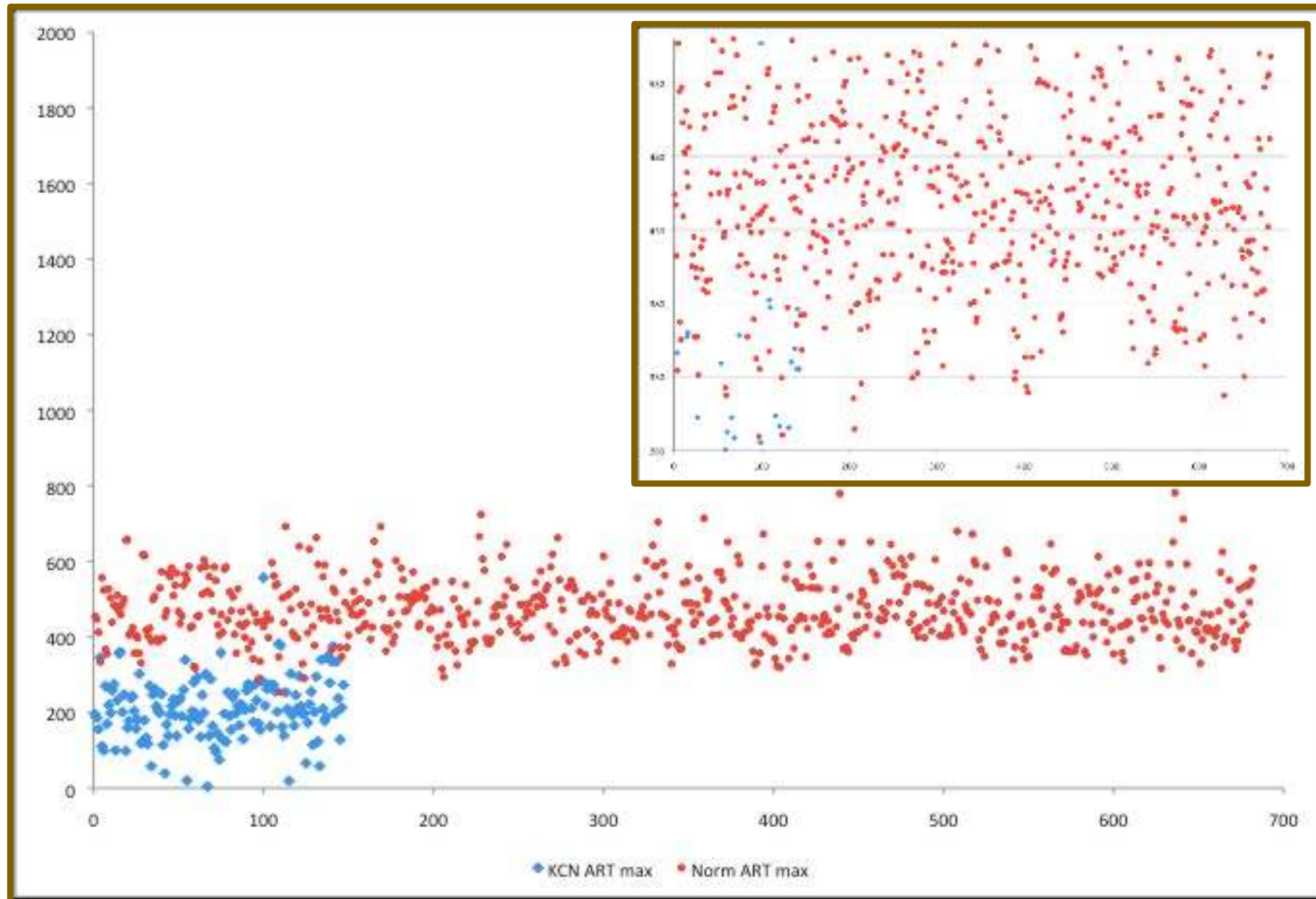
# Elevation Back Thinnest



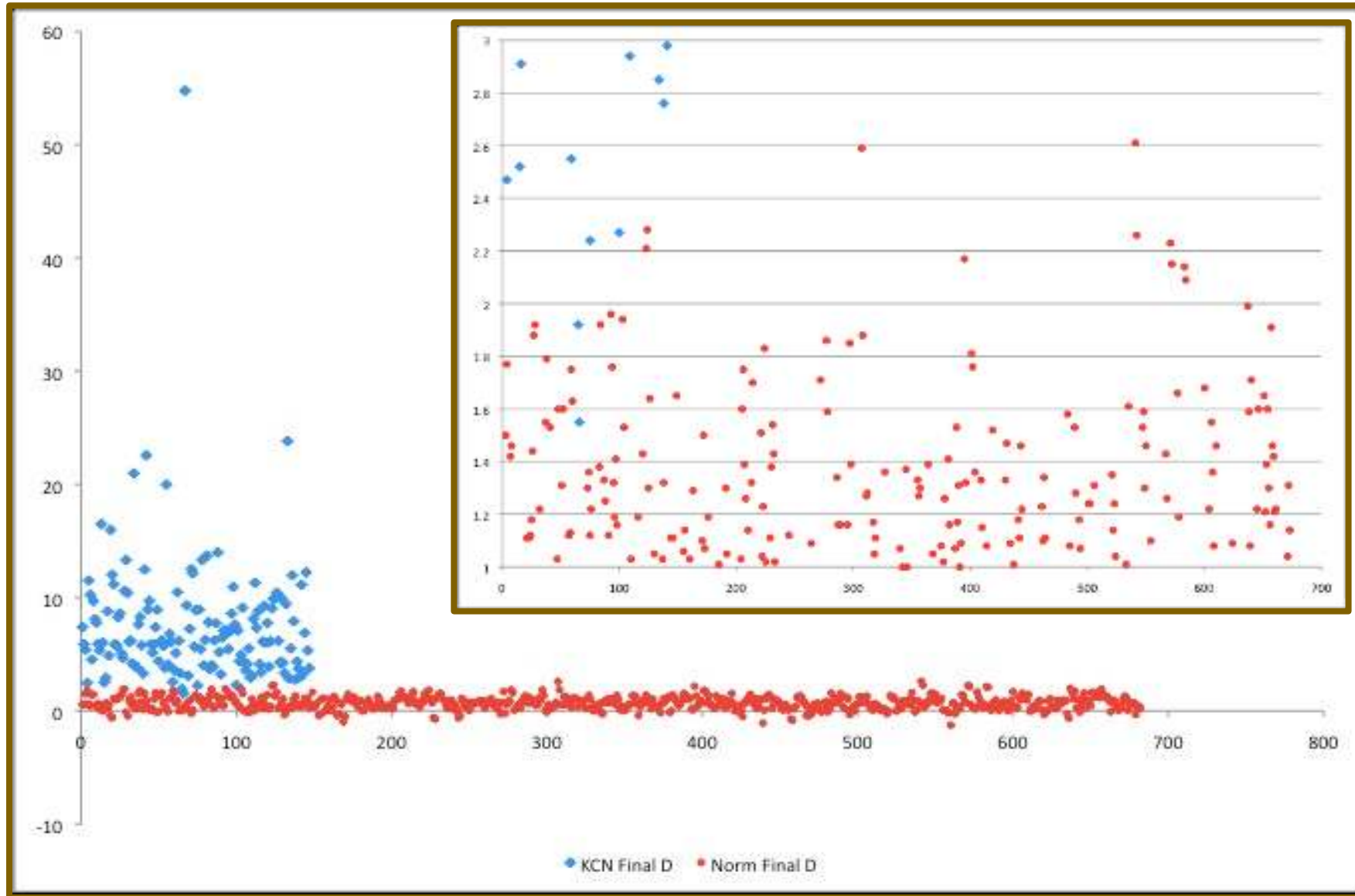
# Plavg (progression index)



# ARTmax (Ambrosio relational thickness)



# “D” (final D based on all parameters)



# What's the Problem ?



# Why is eliminating False Positives Important ?

- While it is easily appreciated that false negatives can have major consequences
  - Performing surgery on an unknown keratoconic

# Why is eliminating False Positives Important ?

- While it is easily appreciated that false negatives can have major consequences
  - Performing surgery on an unknown keratoconic
- It is less appreciated that false positives have significant consequences
  - Reports of safe elective refractive surgery in eyes that are incorrectly diagnosed with Keratoconus

# Single Best Inclusion Parameter

|                     | 95% CI / % Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / % Normal Inc |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 538 / 49 %            | 558 / 73 %              |
| Kmax                | 46.1 / 31 %           | 45.3 / 55 %             |
| Df                  | 1.43 / 8.2 %          | -0.2 / 50 %             |
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| ARTmax              | 354 / 5.3 %           | 376 / 11 %              |
| Final "D"           | 2.69 / 0 %            | 2.26 / 0.6 %            |

This single parameter has been reported as having excellent sensitivity and specificity

# Keratoconus Inclusion Criteria

|                     | 95% CI / % Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / % Normal Inc |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 538 / 49 %            | 558 / 73 %              |
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| Final "D"           | 2.69 / 0 %            | 2.26 / 0.6 %            |

If we assume a 1:1000 rate a 3.2% false positive rate means that you will have 32 “normal” misdiagnosed as diseased for every true Keratoconus patients.

This makes determining the true efficacy of many studies on early disease difficult to analyze (believe)

# Keratoconus Inclusion Criteria

|                     | 95% CI / % Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / % Normal Inc |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 538 / 49 %            | 558 / 73 %              |
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| ARTmax              | 354 / 5.3 %           | 376 / 11 %              |
| Final "D"           | 2.69 / 0 %            | 2.26 / <b>0.6 %</b>     |

If we assume a 1:1000 rate a 0.6% false positive rate means that you will have 6 “normal” misdiagnosed as diseased for every true Keratoconus patients.

This still makes determining true efficacy difficult to analyze

# Keratoconus Inclusion Criteria

|                     | 95% CI / % Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / % Normal Inc |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minimal Pach        | 538 / 49 %            | 558 / 73 %              |
| Kmax                | 46.1 / 31 %           | 45.3 / 55 %             |
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| ARTmax              | 354 / 5.3 %           | 376 / 11 %              |
| Final "D"           | <b>2.69 / 0 %</b>     | 2.26 / 0.6 %            |

If we assume a 1:1000 rate a 0.6% false positive rate means that you will have 6 “normal” misdiagnosed as diseased for every true Keratoconus patients.

This still makes determining true efficacy difficult to analyze

We need to approach a zero false positive rate.

Many CXL+ studies enroll patients that have been excluded from refractive surgery due to “suspicious” maps

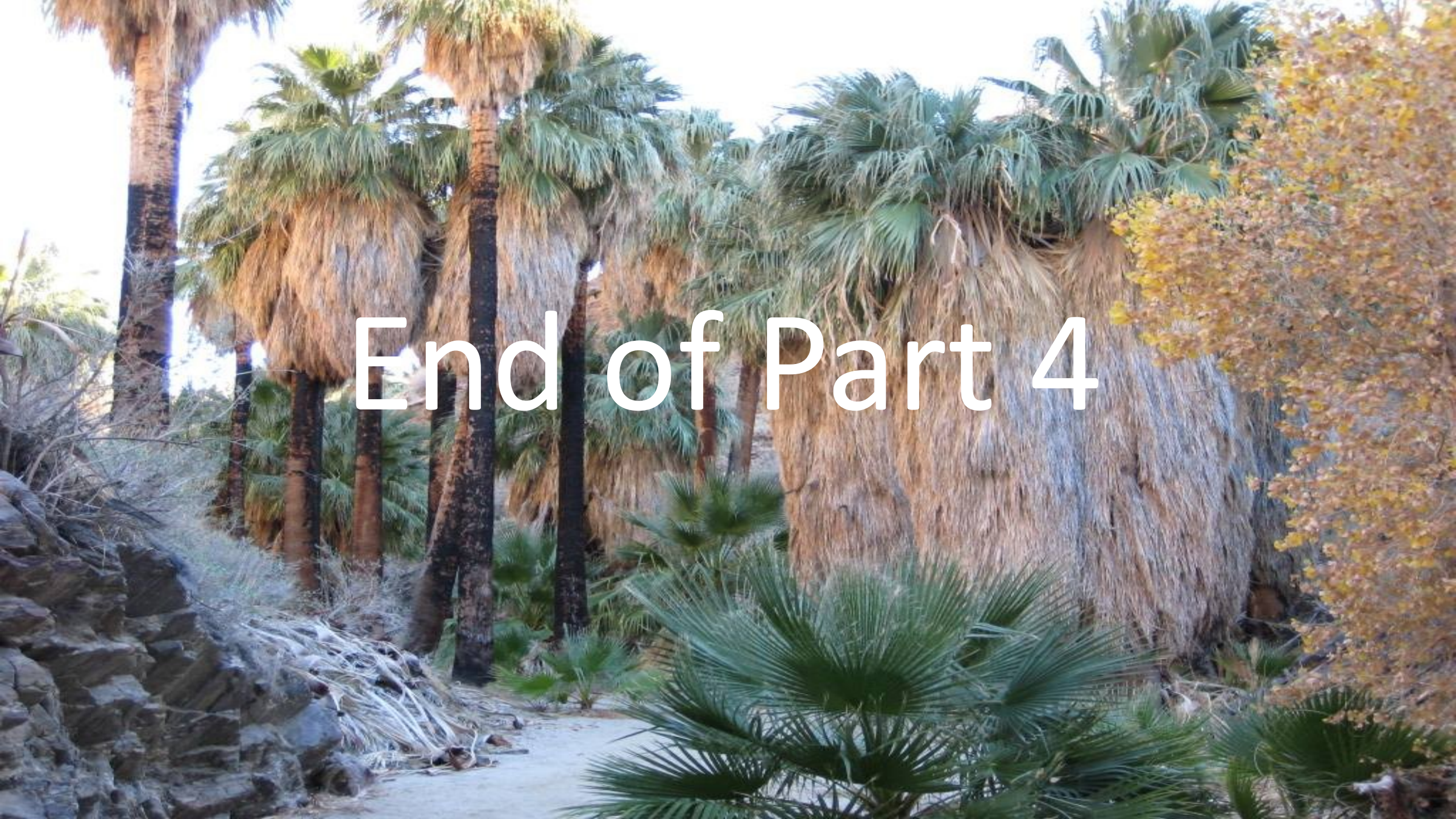
If you use a 95% CI from refractive screening that means that 2% of your treated subjects are likely to have true disease

This makes analyzing the data almost impossible

# Positive Predictive Value

|                        | 95% CI / %<br>Normal Inc | 97.5% CI / %<br>Normal Inc |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Minimal<br>Pach        | 538 / 49 %               | 558 / 73 %                 |
| Kmax                   | 46.1 / 31 %              | 45.3 / 55 %                |
| Df                     | 1.43 / 8.2 %             | -0.2 / 50 %                |
| Db                     | 1.0 / 13 %               | 0.48 / 23 %                |
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| Plavg                  | 1.17 / 3.2 %             | 1.08 / 12 %                |
| ARTmax                 | 354 / 5.3 %              | 376 / 11 %                 |
| Final "D"              | 2.69 / 0 %               | 2.26 / 0.6 %               |

- Proportion of patients who test positive who actually have the disease
- If we assume a 1:1000 rate a 3.2% false positive rate means that you will have 32 “normal” misdiagnosed as diseased for every true Keratoconus patients.
- Positive Predictive Value =  $1/32$

A tropical landscape featuring a sandy path leading through a grove of palm trees. The palm trees have thick, textured trunks and large, green fronds. Some fronds are brown and dry, hanging down. To the right, there are trees with yellow and orange autumn-colored leaves. In the foreground, there are some green, spiky plants. The sky is bright and clear.

End of Part 4

# Measuring Corneal Thickness

Michael W. Belin, M.D.,

*Professor of Ophthalmology & Vision Science*

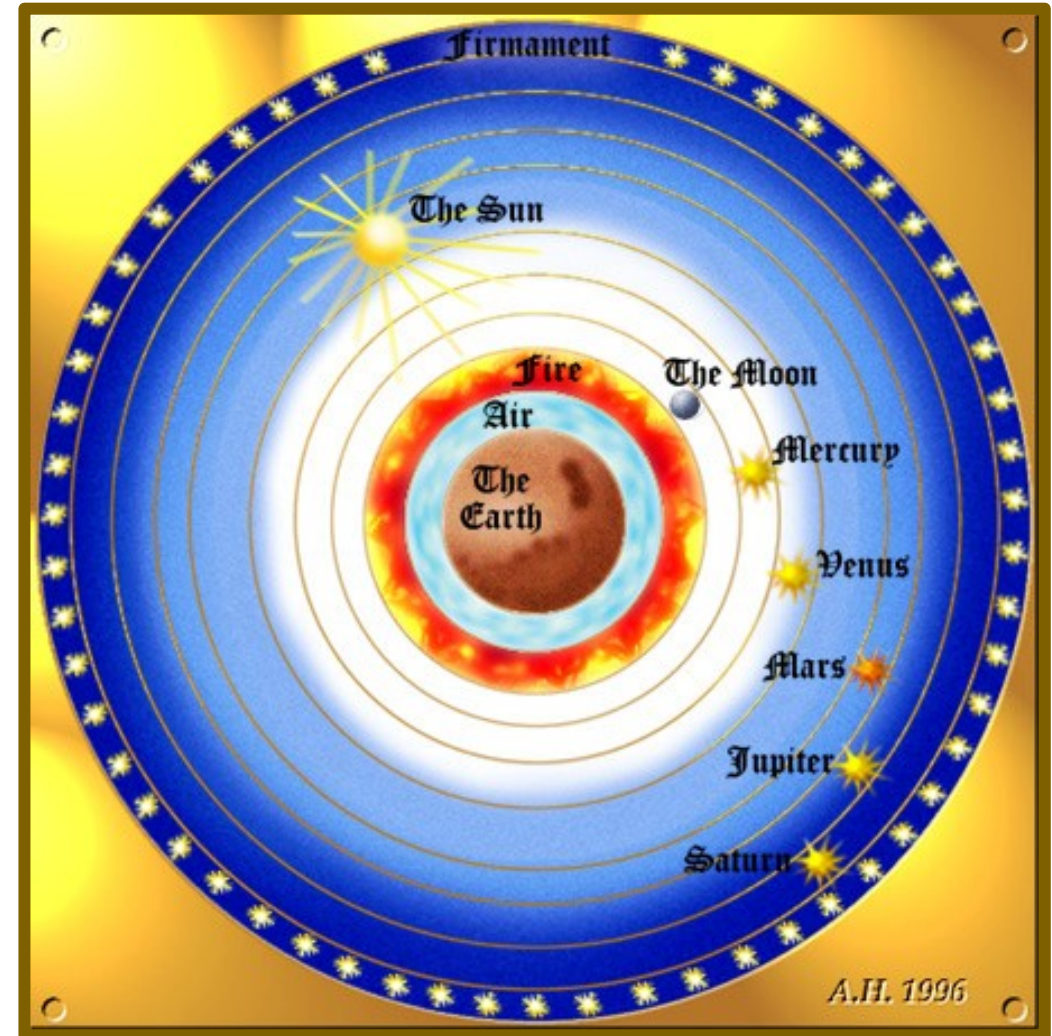
*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (USA)*

Consultant OCULUS GmbH

CMO - EPION Therapeutics



- This is really a discussion on how we look at things
  - Most people are used to visualizing things in 2 dimensions



# 2 Dimensional Thought

- In 1983 (42 years ago) KAL # 007 was shot down when it strayed over Soviet airspace



# It was a Heyday for Conspiracy Theorists



# Two-Dimensional Thinking

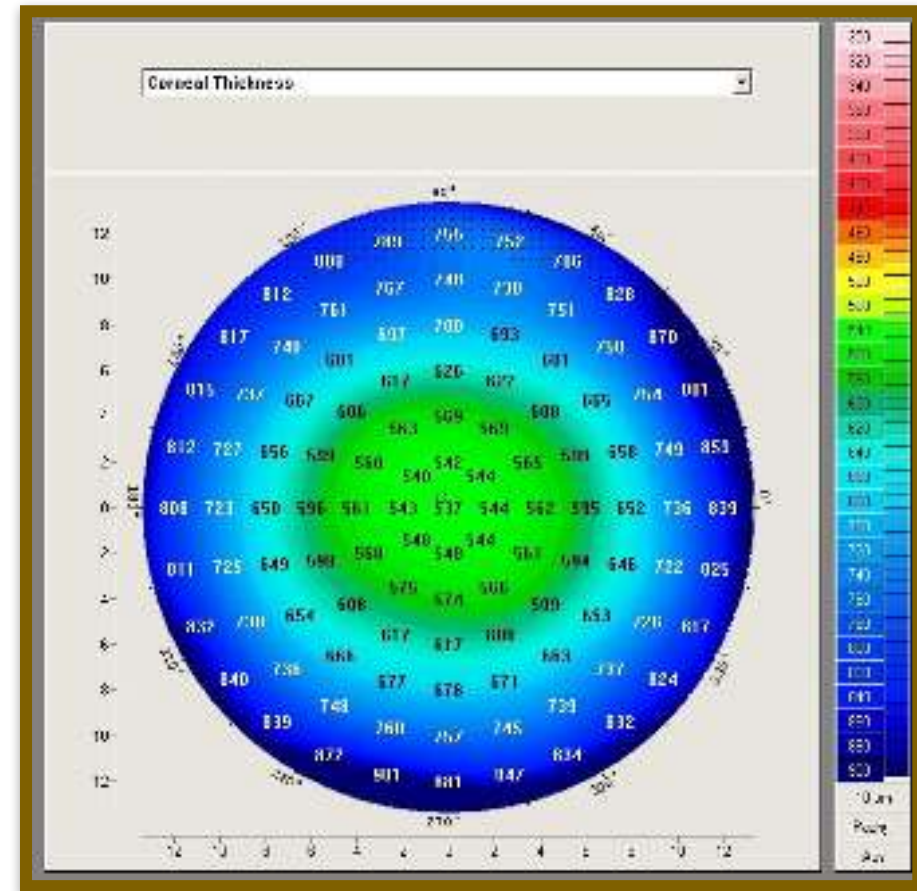


# Problem of 2D Visualization



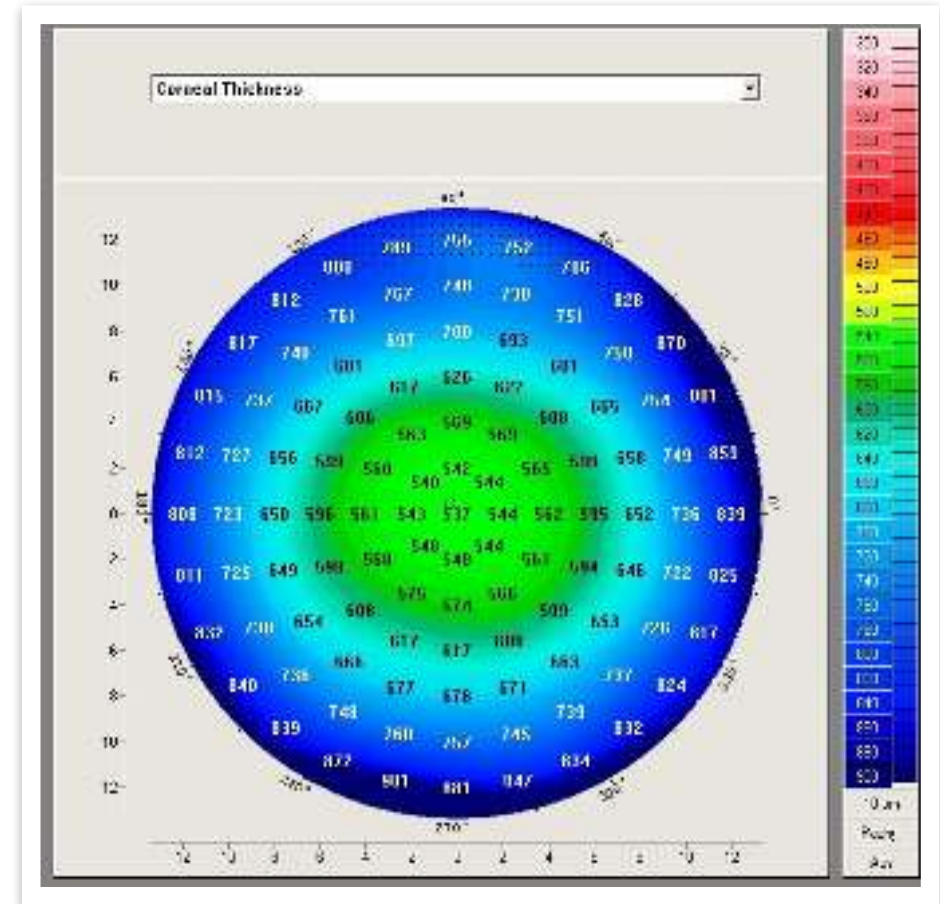
# Corneal Thickness

- I would like to address Corneal Thickness
  - One of the more “Concrete” Properties
- Thickness is not an optical property
- Physical property described in microns



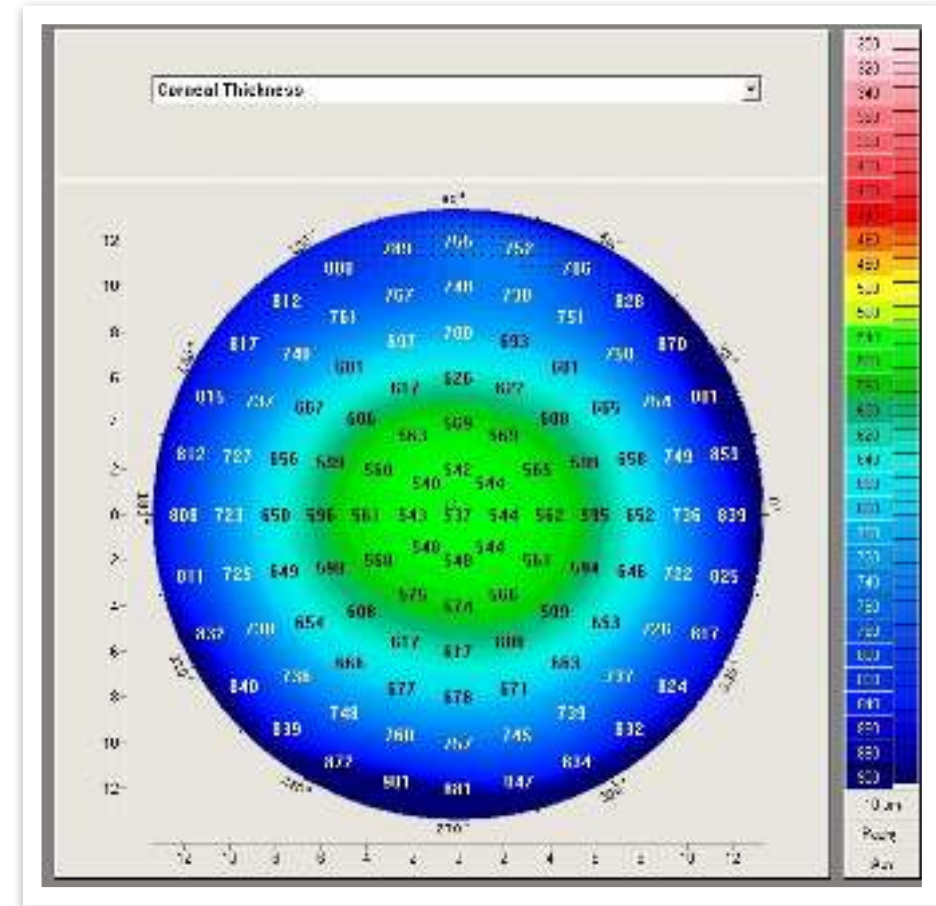
# Corneal Thickness Map

- Multiple papers compare different instruments measuring corneal thickness
  - Ultrasound, Optical Pachymetry, Scheimpflug, OCT, Confocal, etc.

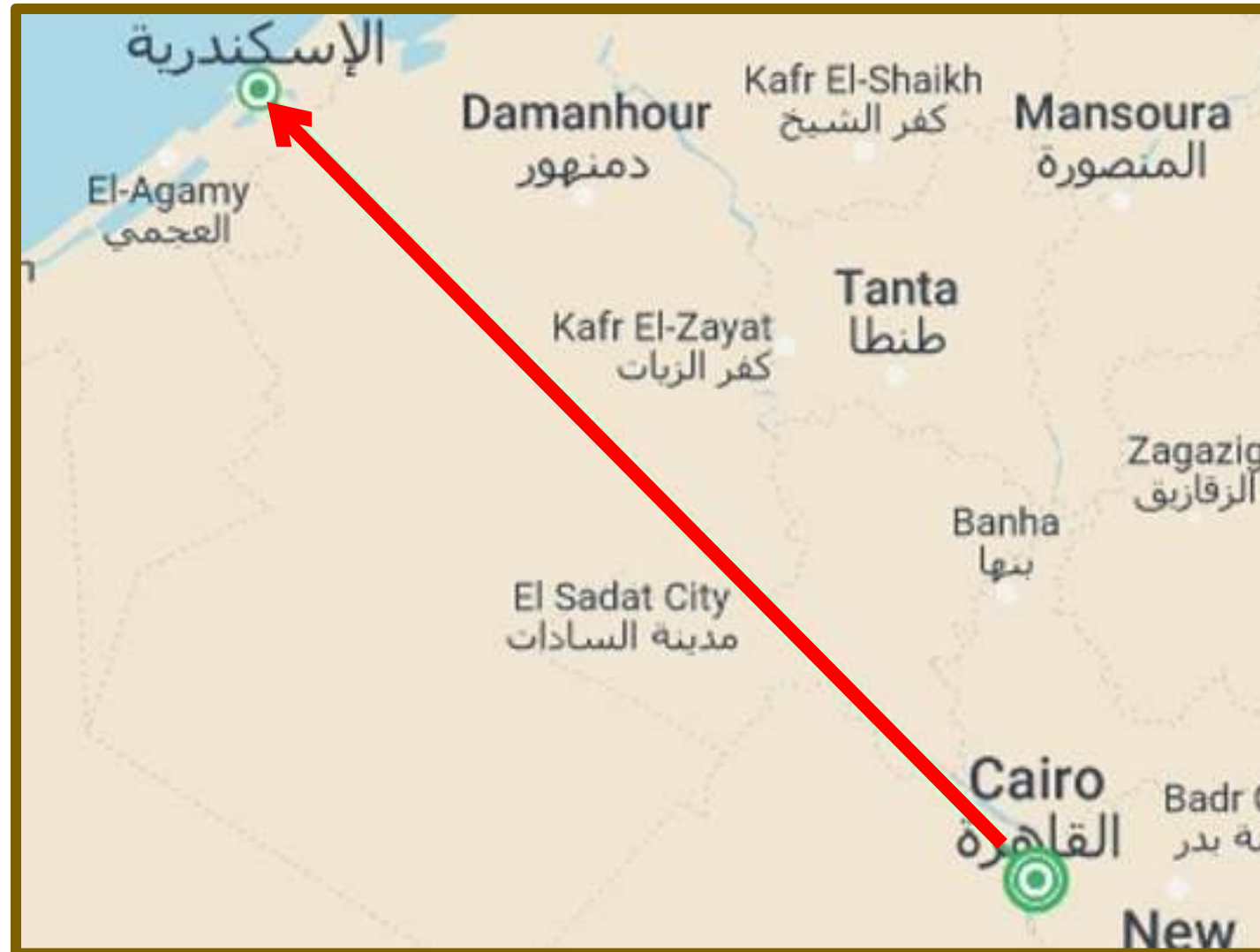


# Corneal Thickness Map

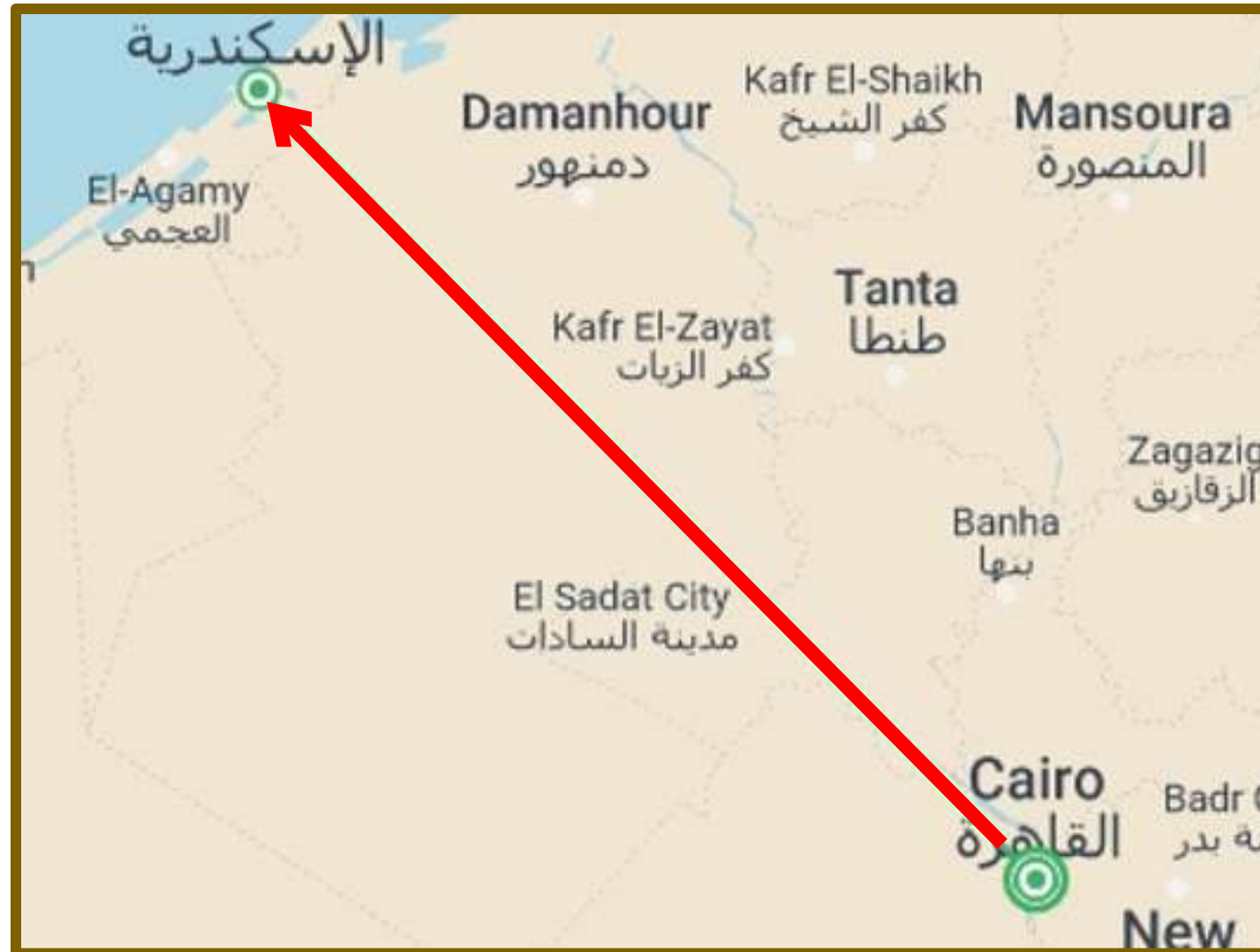
- We assume they're all measuring the same thing and concentrate on machine variability
  - Ultrasound, Optical Pachymetry, Scheimpflug, OCT, Confocal, etc.



# How far is it from Cairo to Alexandria ?



# How far is it from Cairo to Alexandria ?



218 Km  
(131 miles)

# How far is it from Alexandria to Cairo ?



# How far is it from Alexandria to Cairo ?



It's a Trick Question

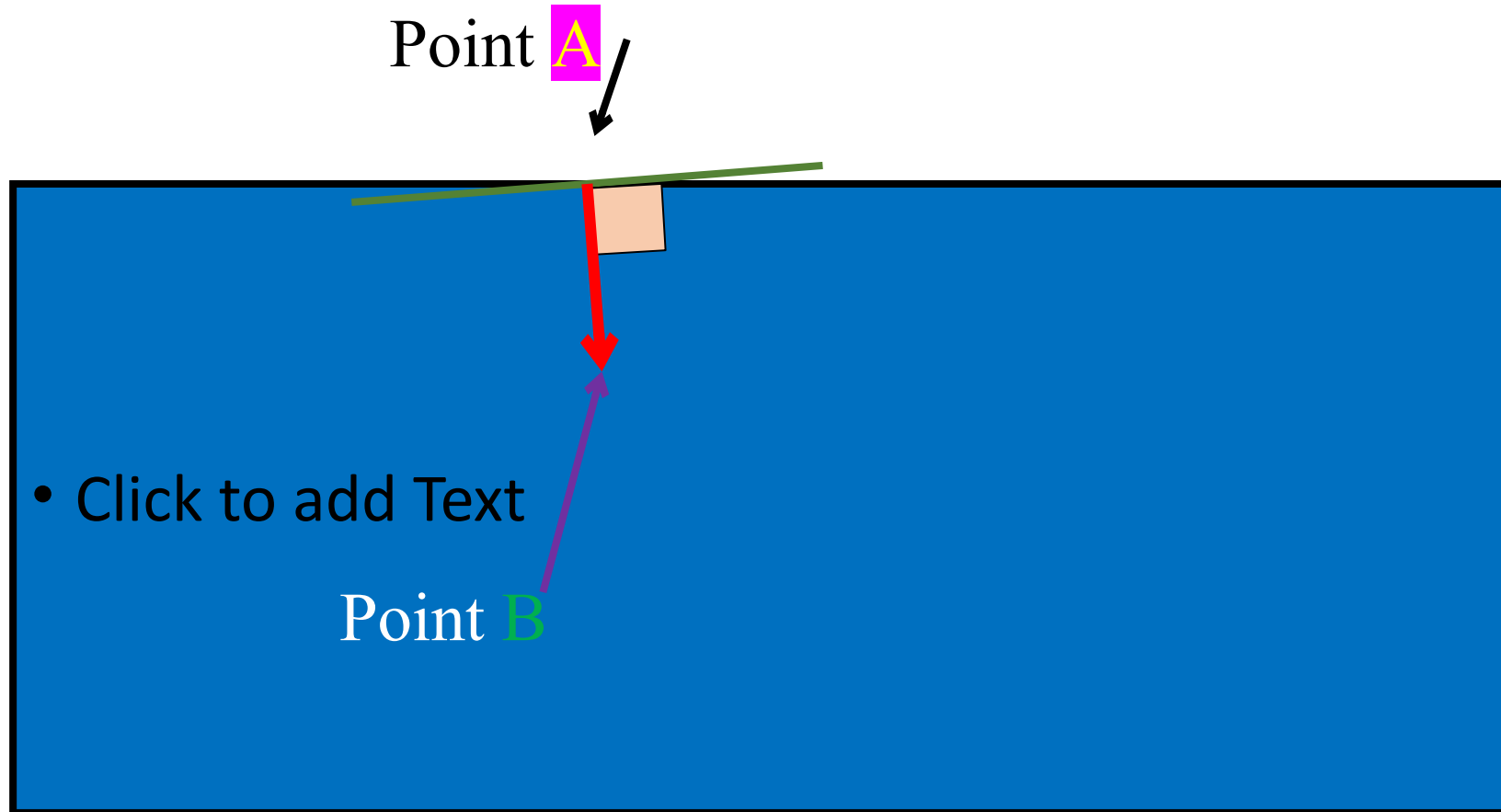
# How Thick is the Cornea at Point A

Point A

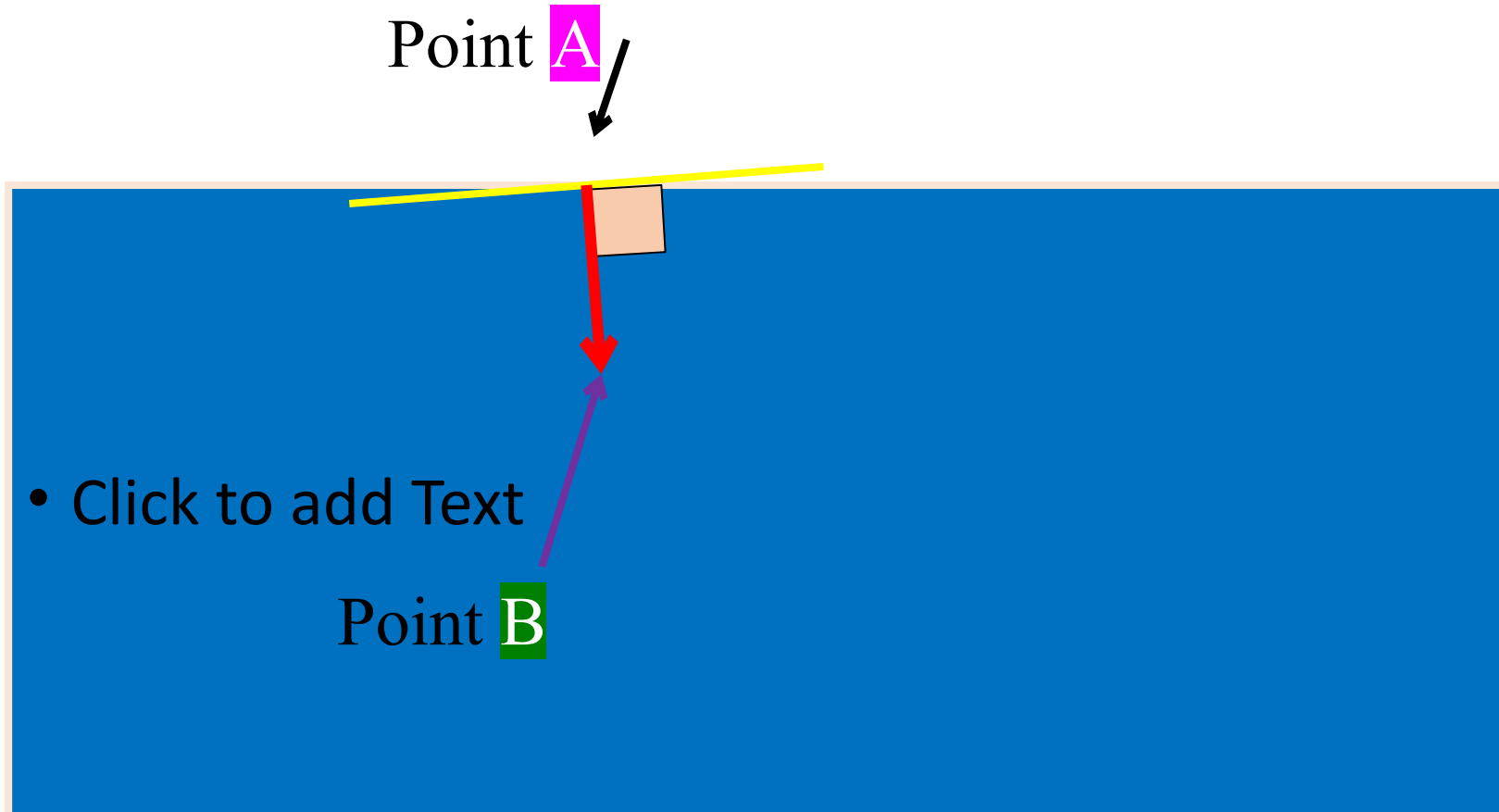


- Click to add Text

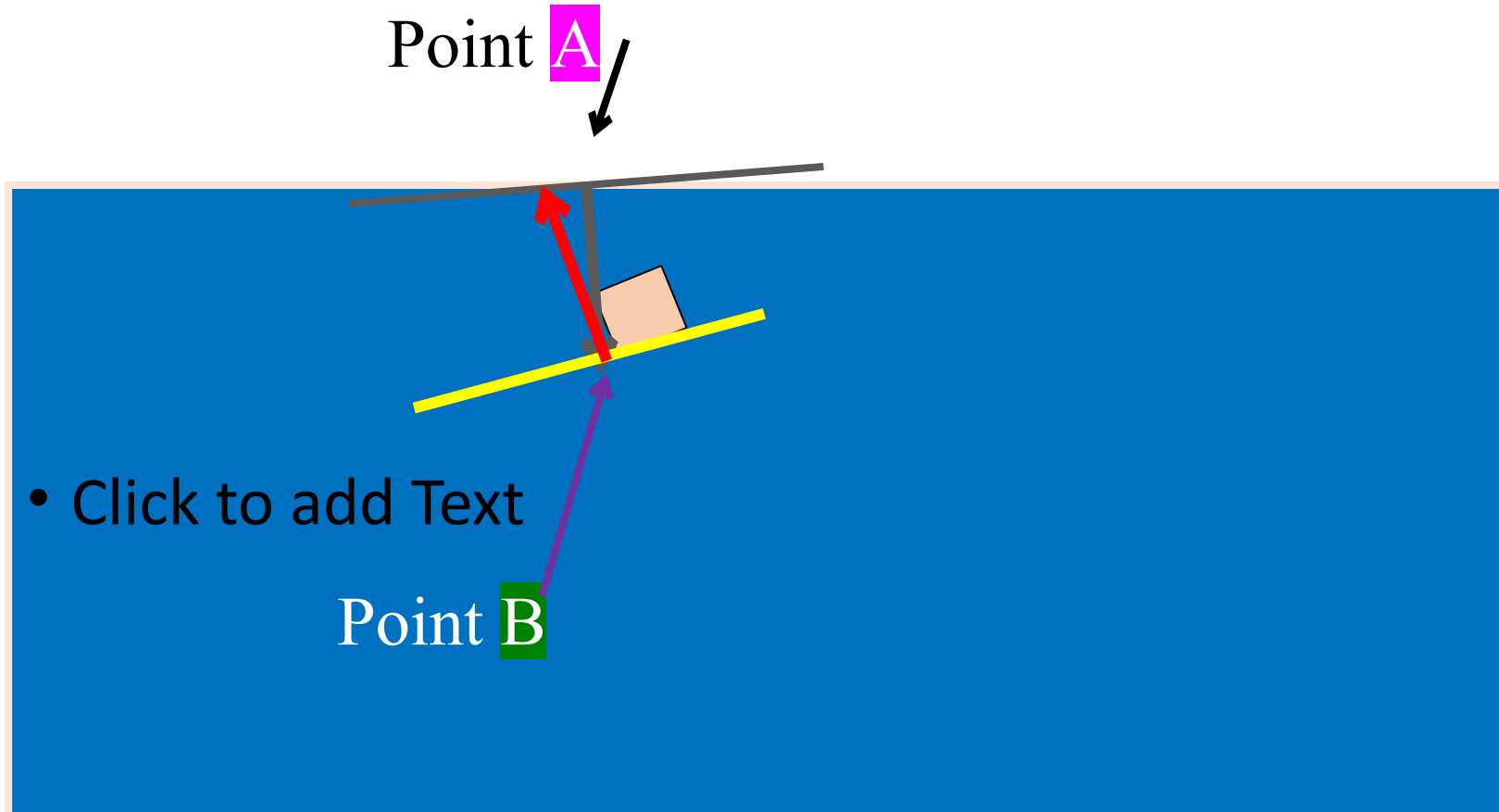
# How Thick is the Cornea at Point **A**



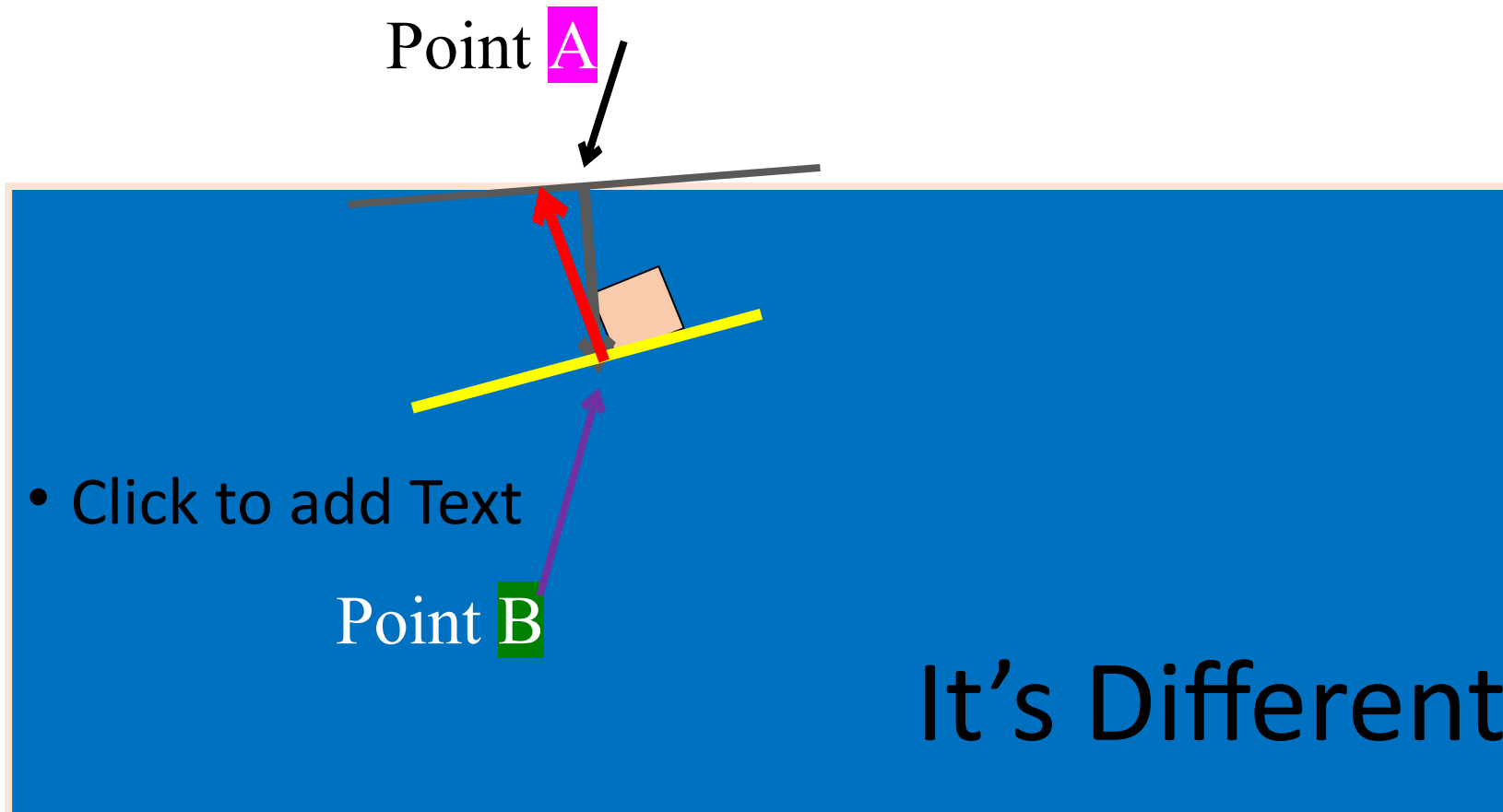
# How Thick is the Cornea at Point B



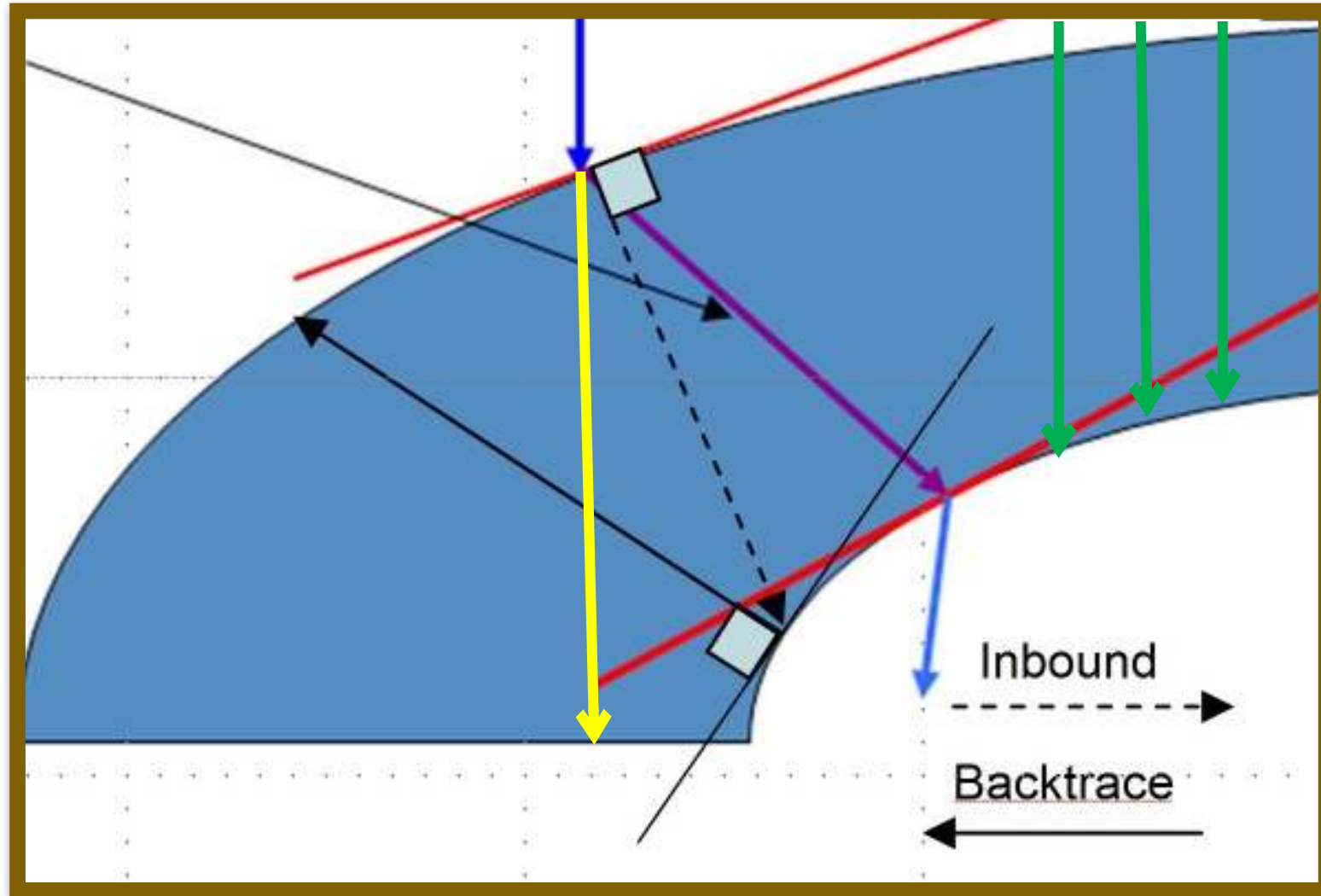
# How Thick is the Cornea at Point B



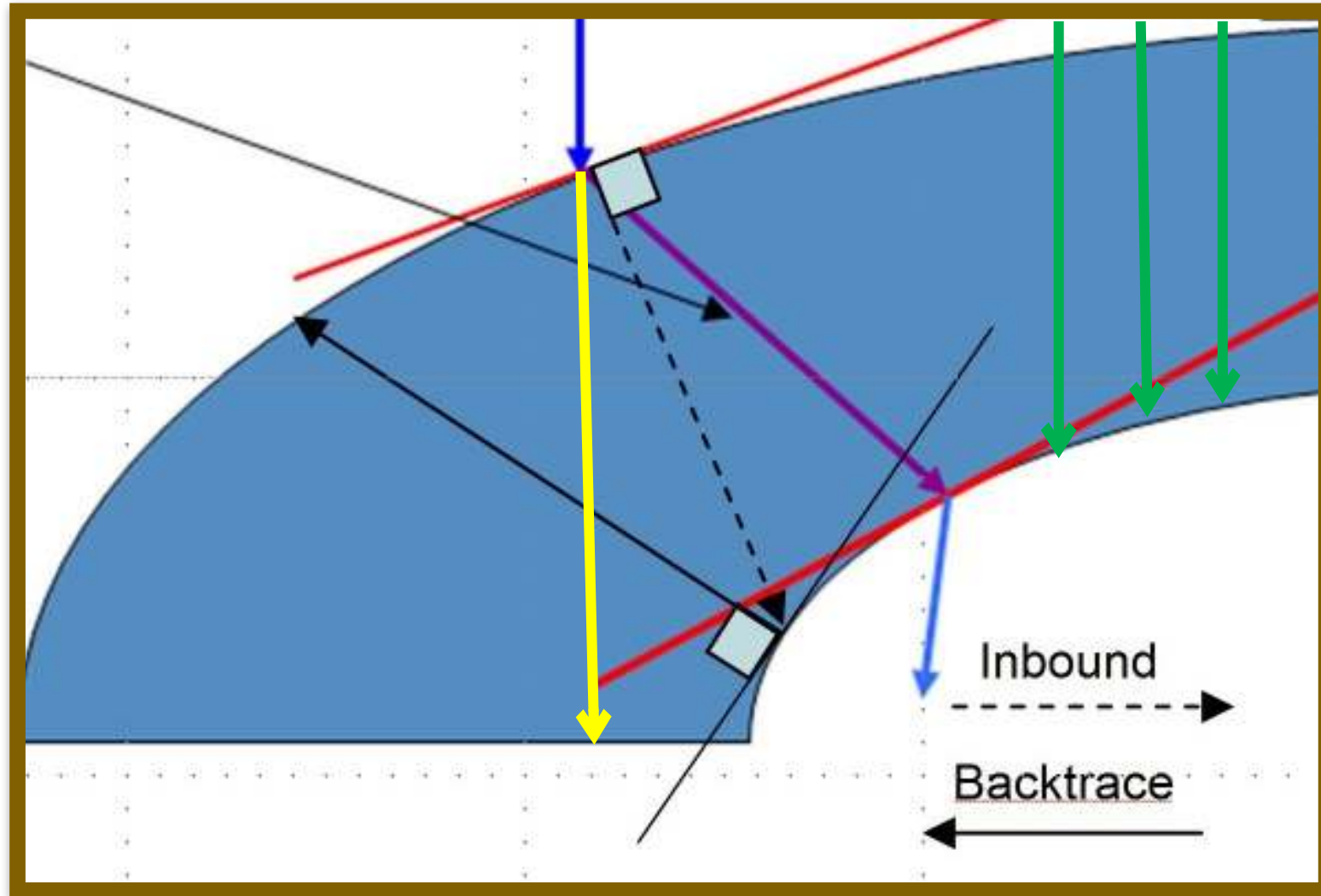
# How Thick is the Cornea at Point B



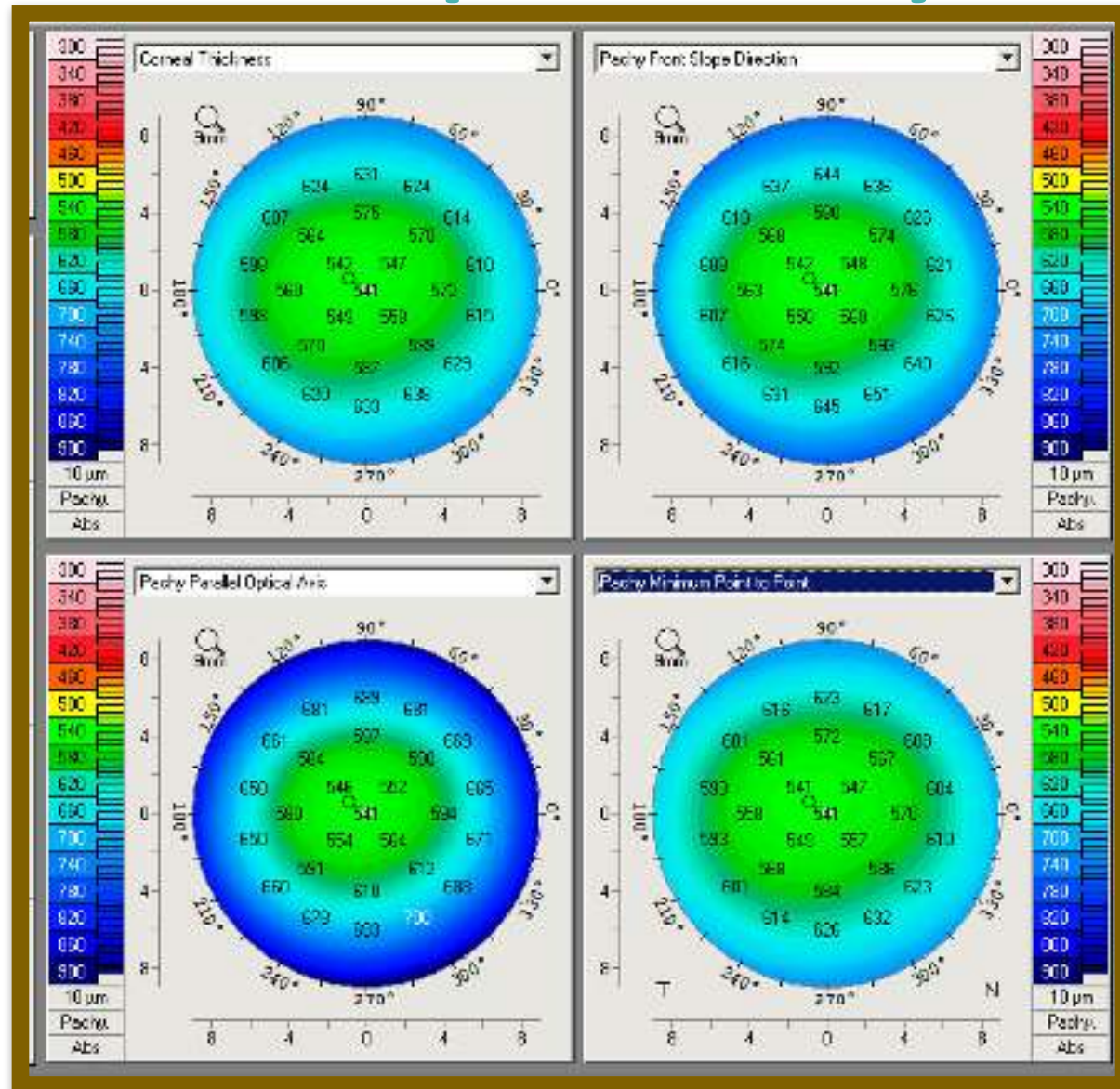
# Multiple ways to measure Thickness



We typically only think of one

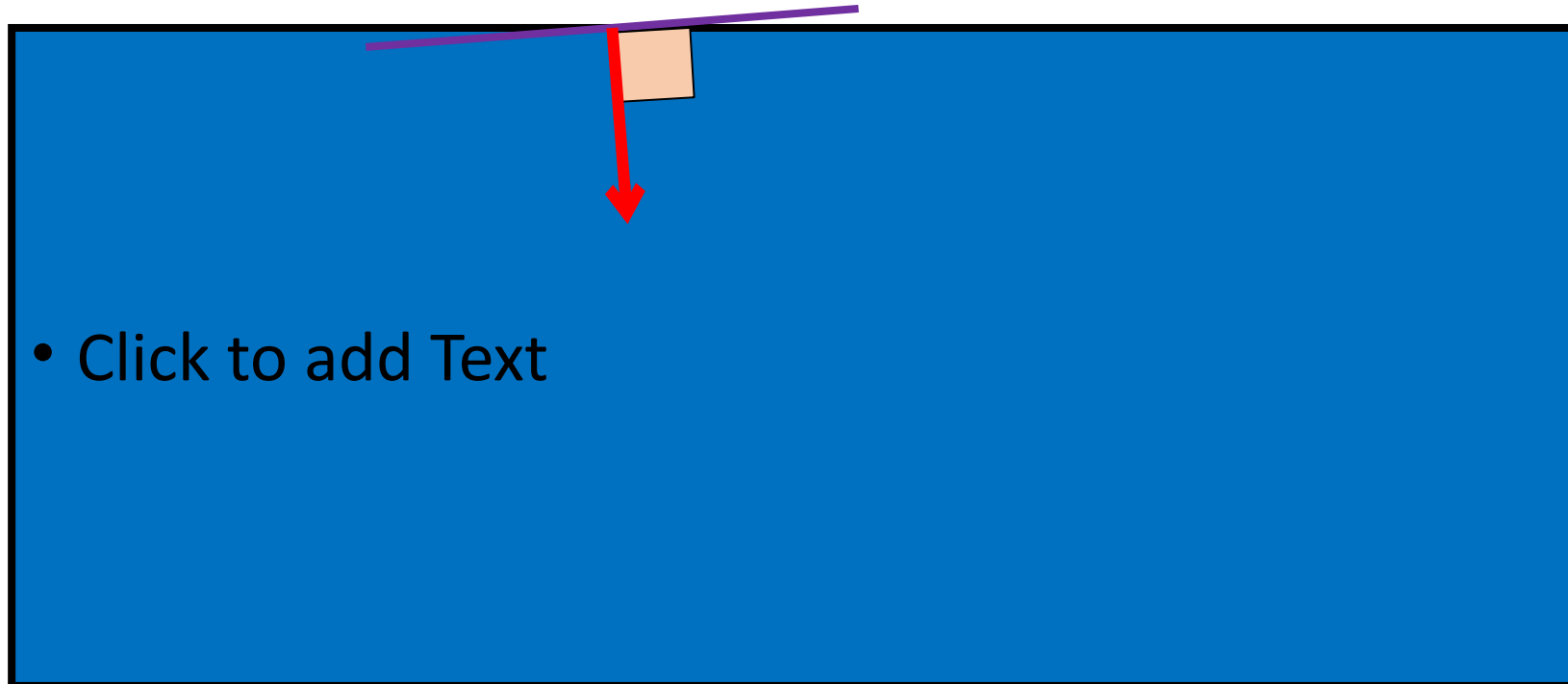


# Multiple Ways

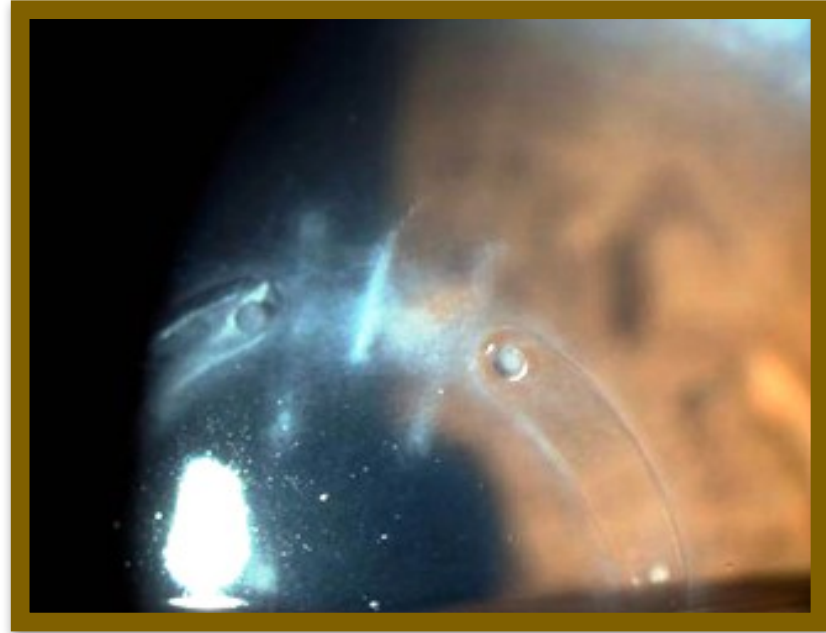
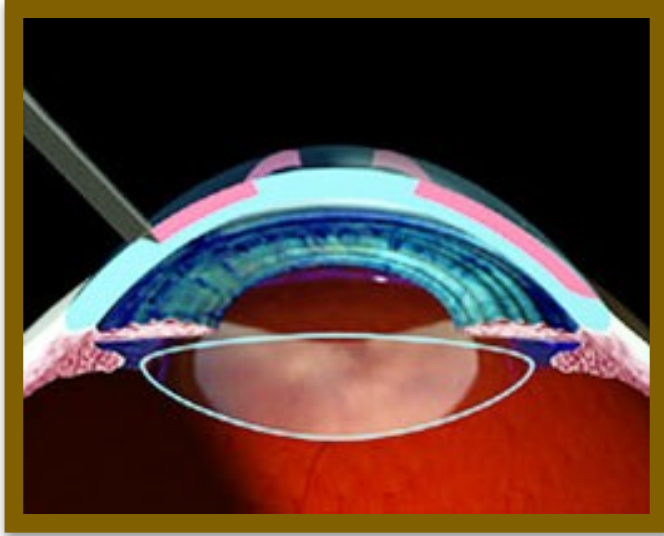


# Normal to the Anterior Surface Tangent

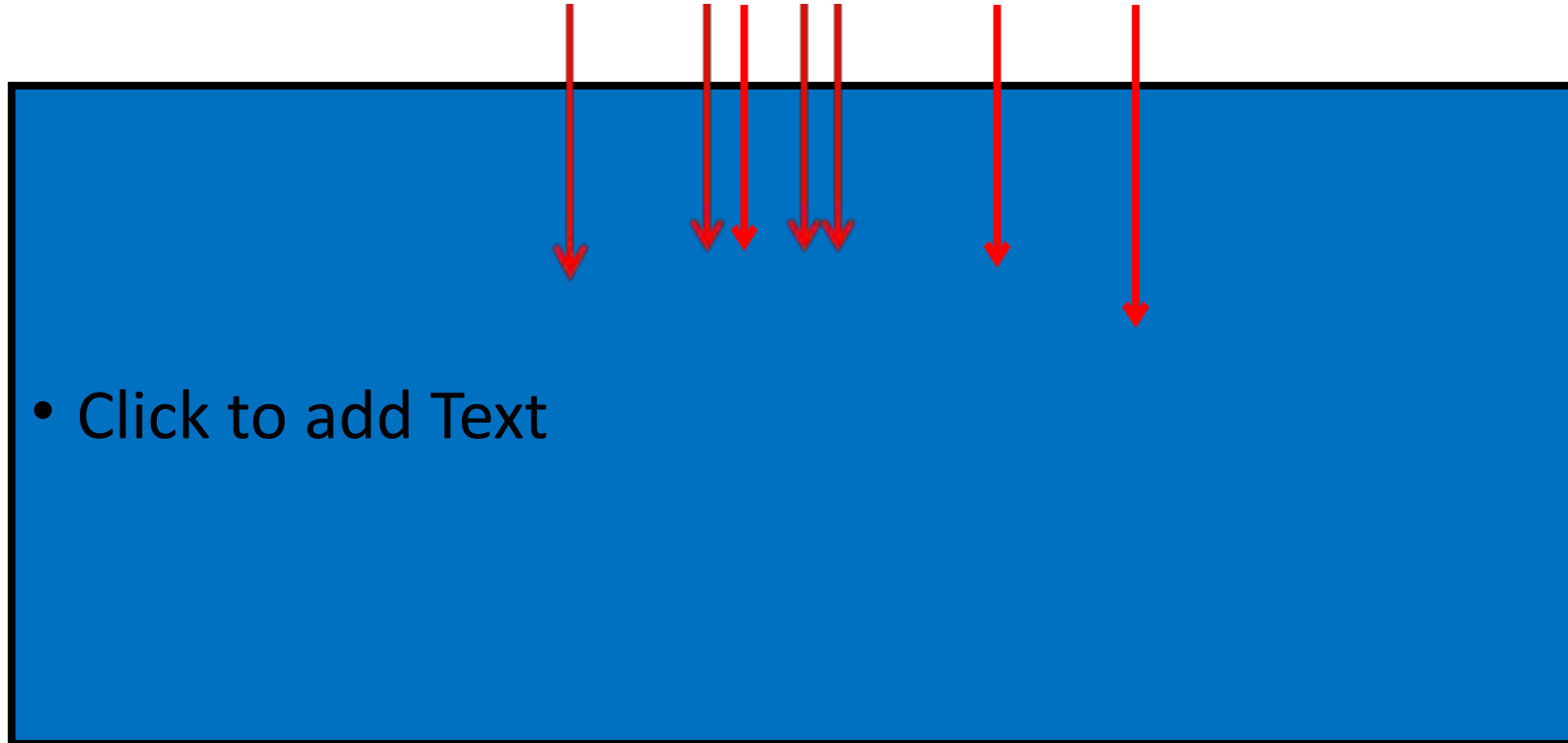
This is what most of us think is being measured



# Normal to the Surface Tangent



# Parallel Vertical Cuts

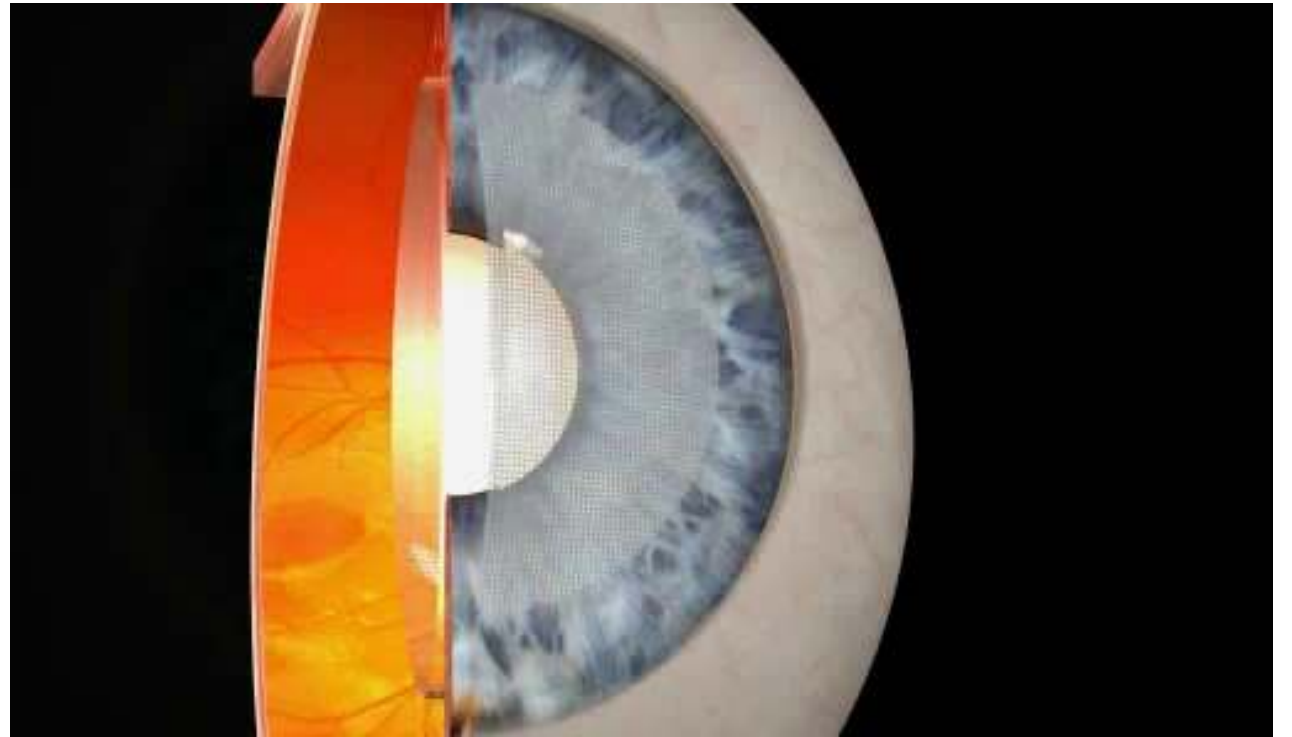


# Similar to an Egg Slicer



# Ophthalmic Analogy

- Translational femtosecond laser
  - Ziemer LDV



# Searching for Minimal Thickness



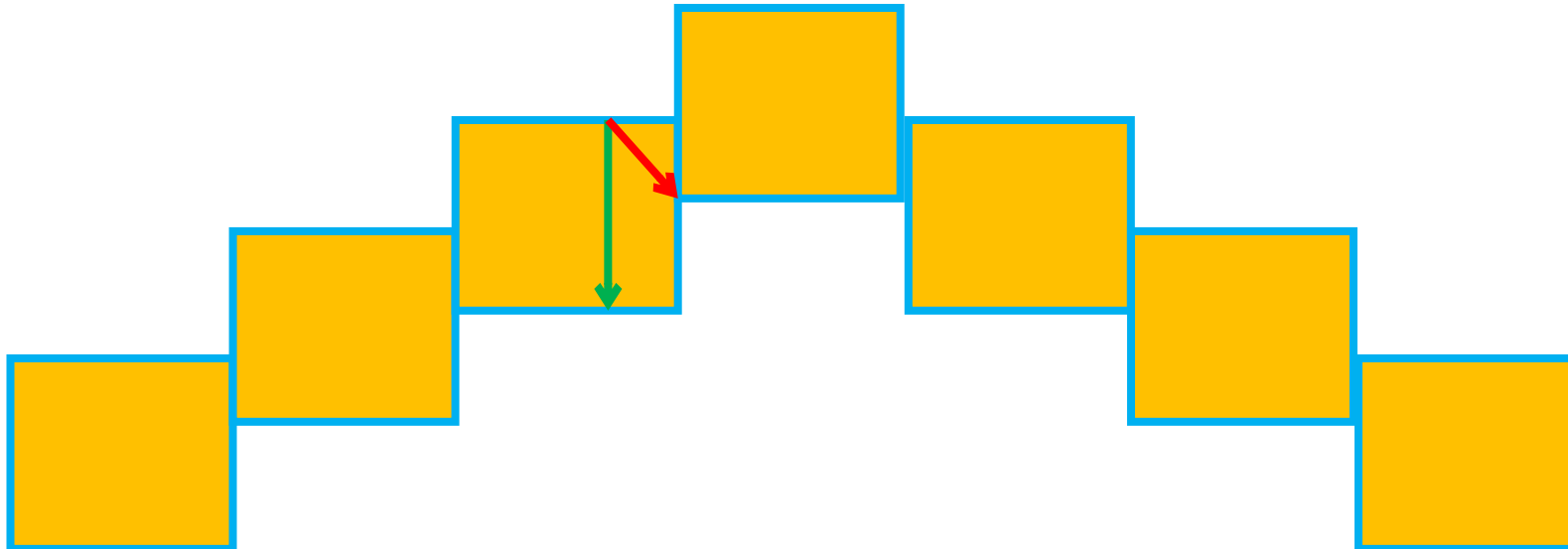
**GREEN** is how you currently do it by taking the normal to the surface

# Searching for Minimal Thickness

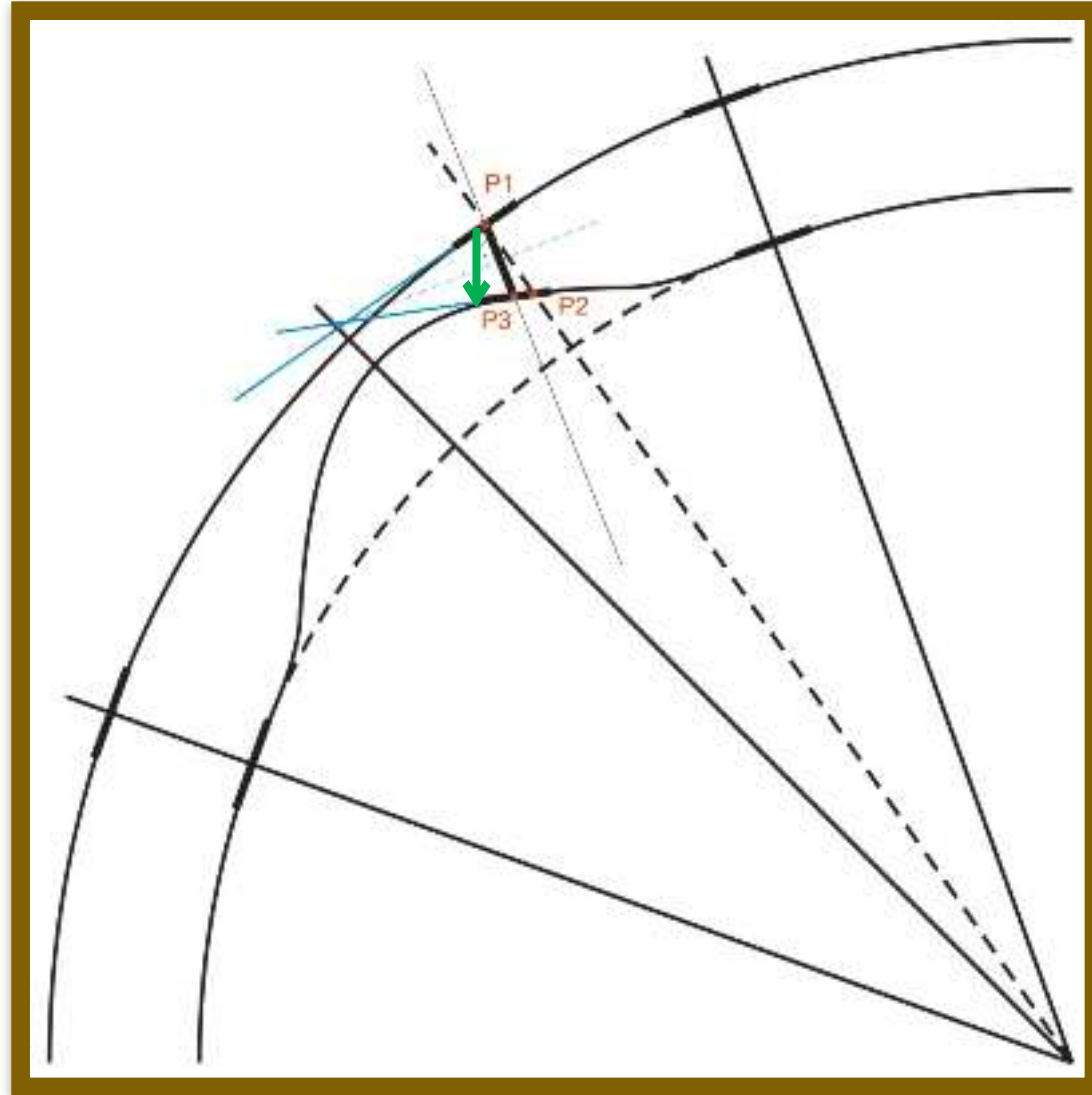


**GREEN** is how you currently do it by taking the normal to the surface

**RED** by looking for the closest posterior point regardless of orientation



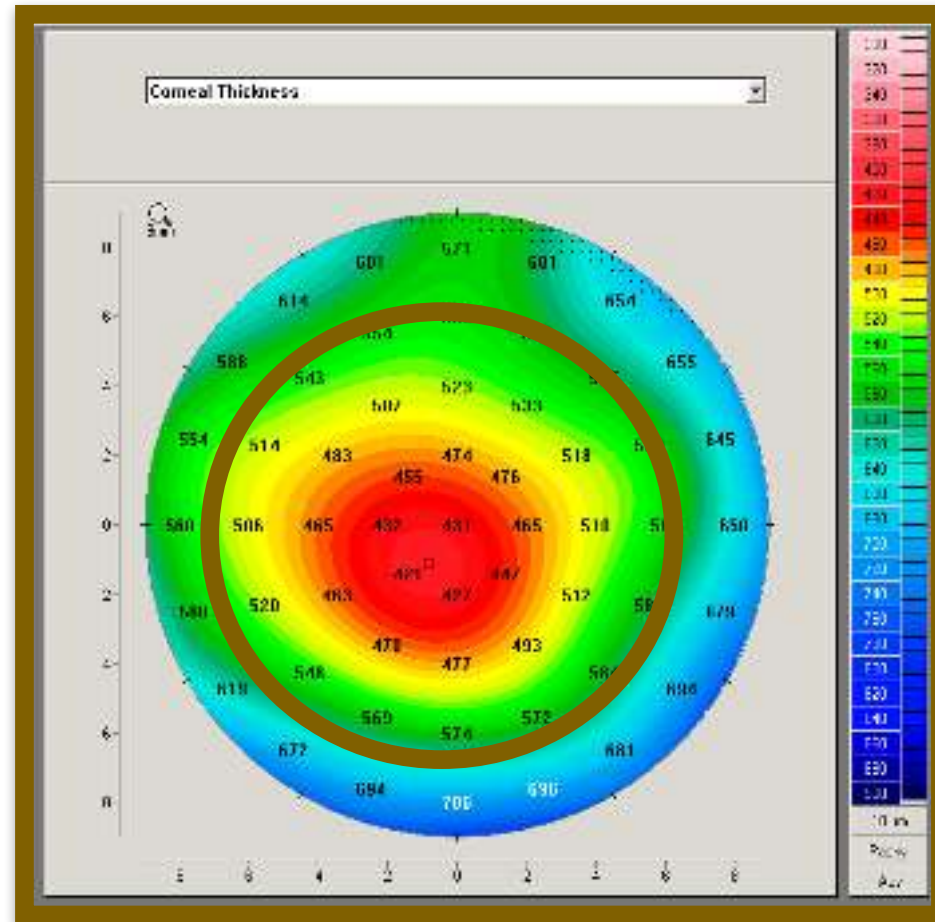
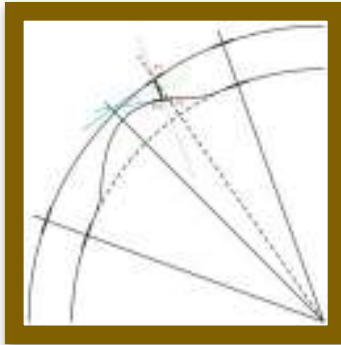
# Minimal Distance vs Normal to Tangent



# Sonar - Minimal Distance is Critical

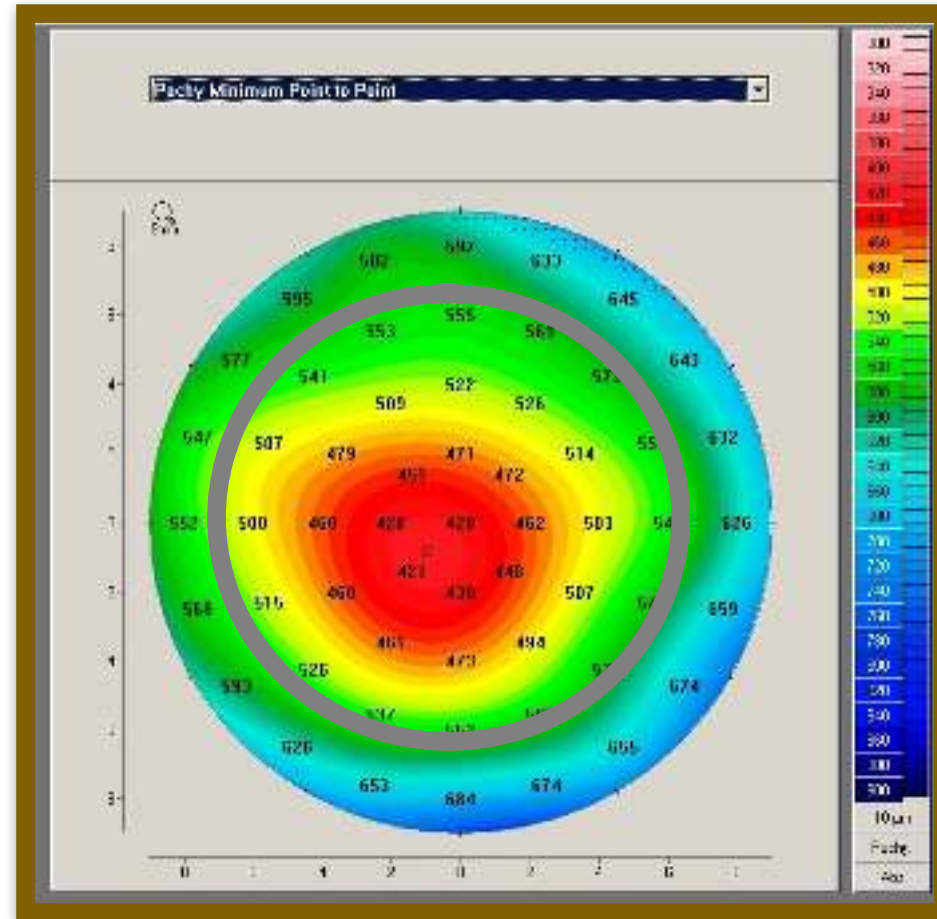
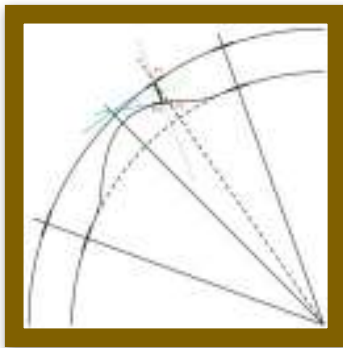


# ICR Surgical Planning Channel Depth



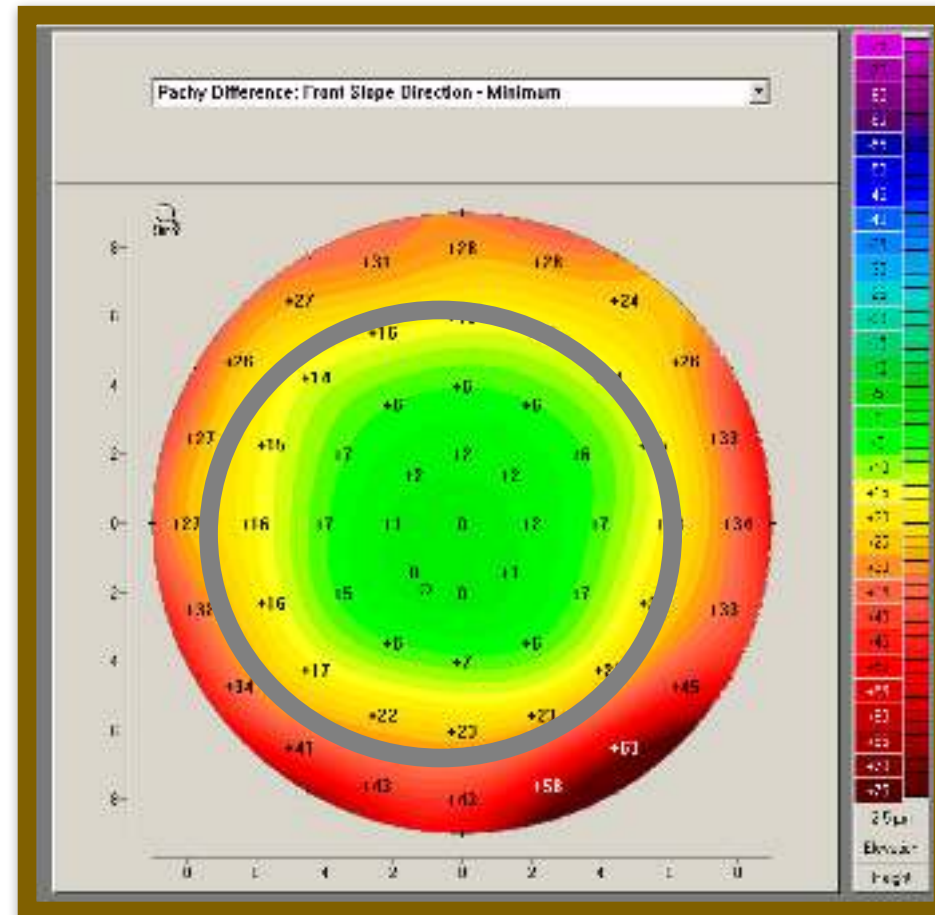
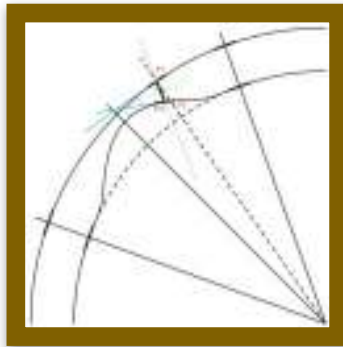
# Standard Pachymetry

# Minimal Distance Method

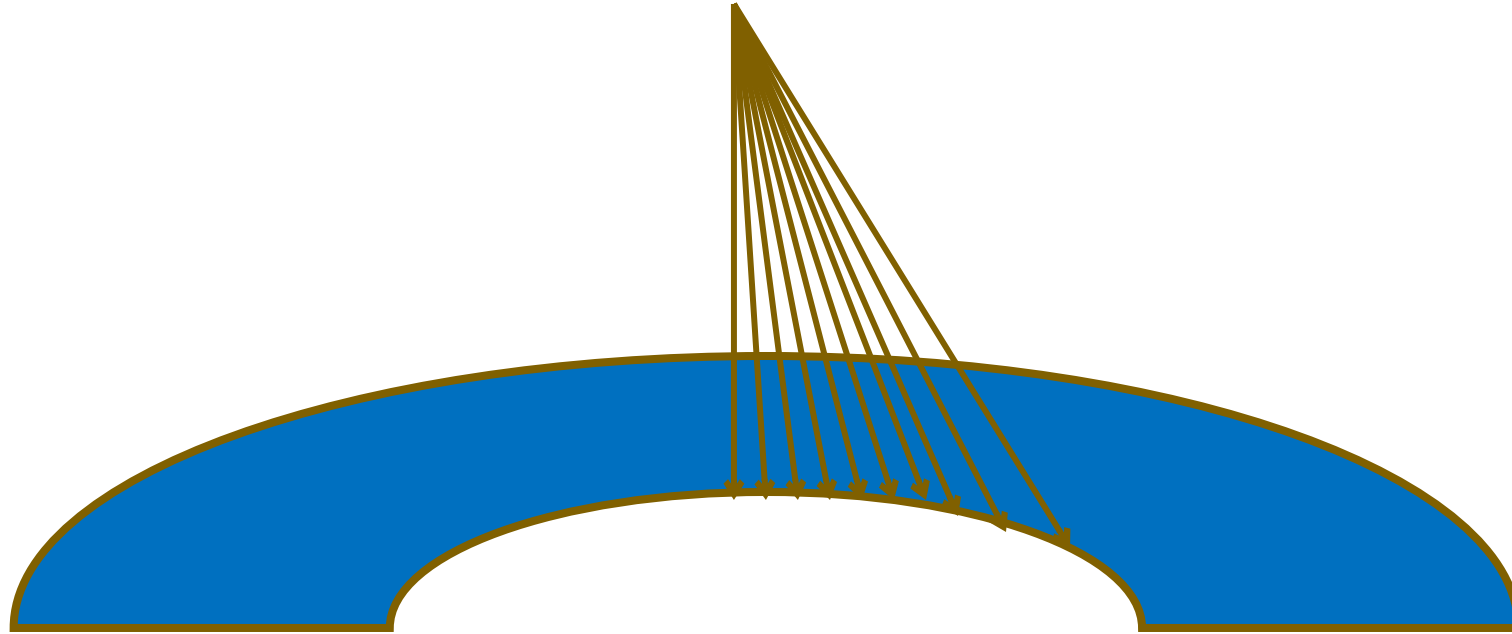


Minimal Distance Method

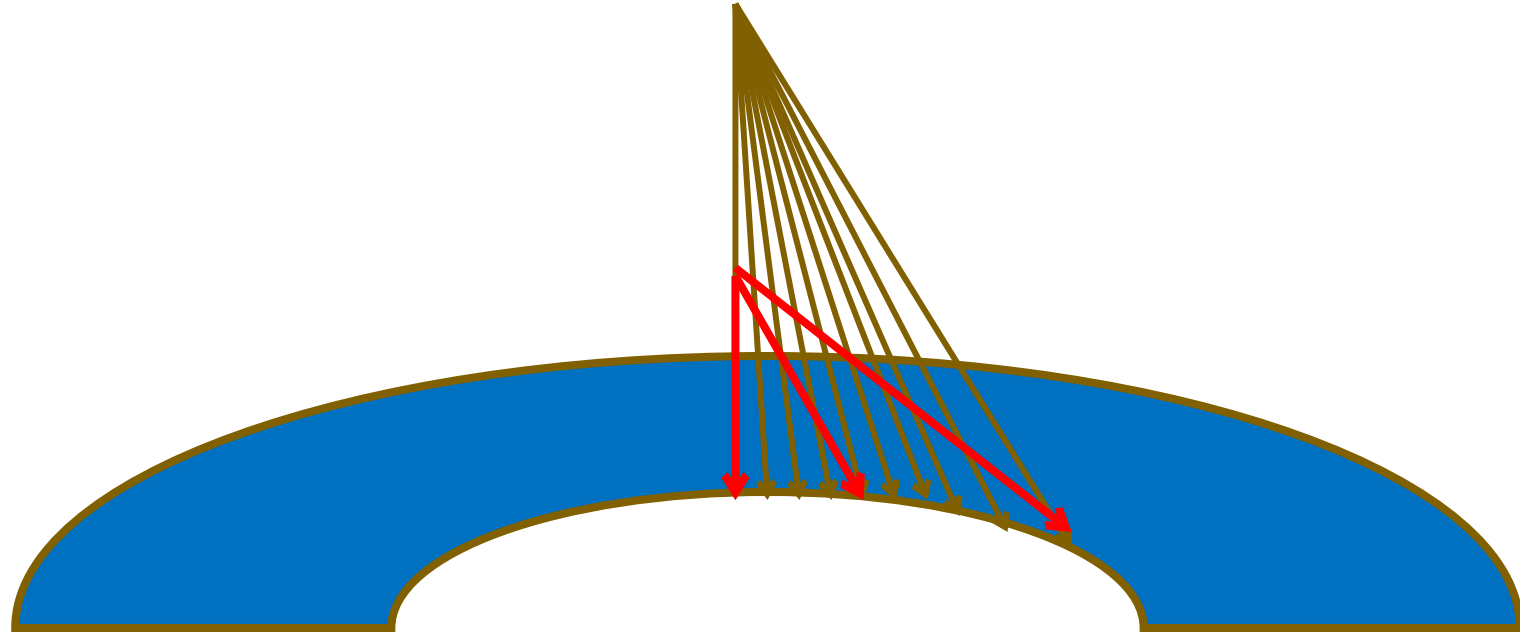
# As much as a 35-micron difference between Minimal & Standard Methods



# Thickness from 1 fixed point



# Thickness from 1 fixed point

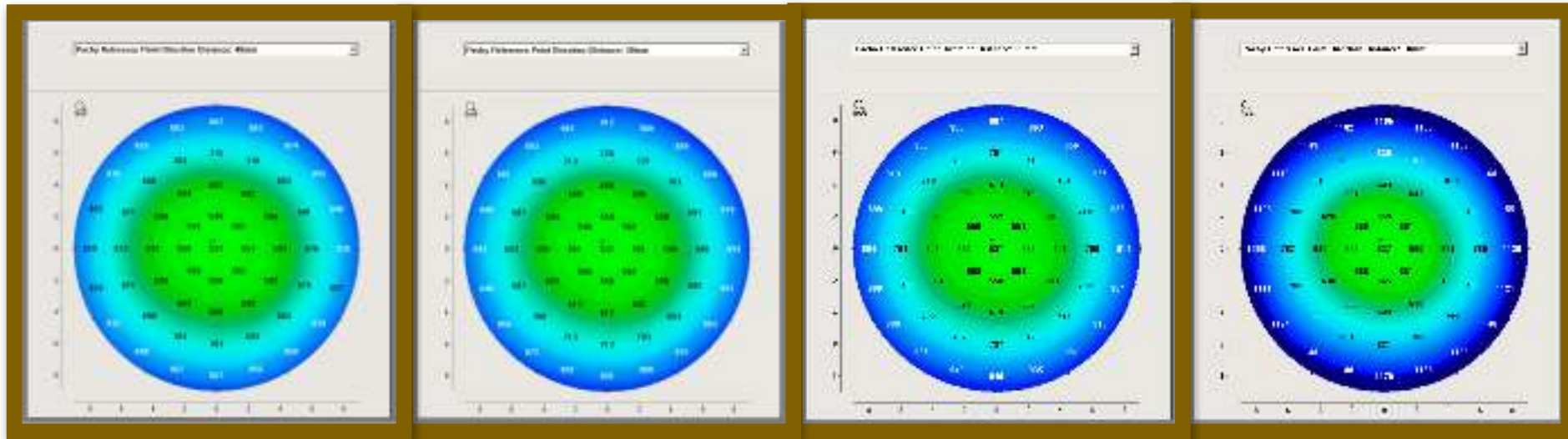


This will vary based on the distance from the Apex

# Most Current Refractive Lasers



# Distance set by the focal Length of the Delivery System



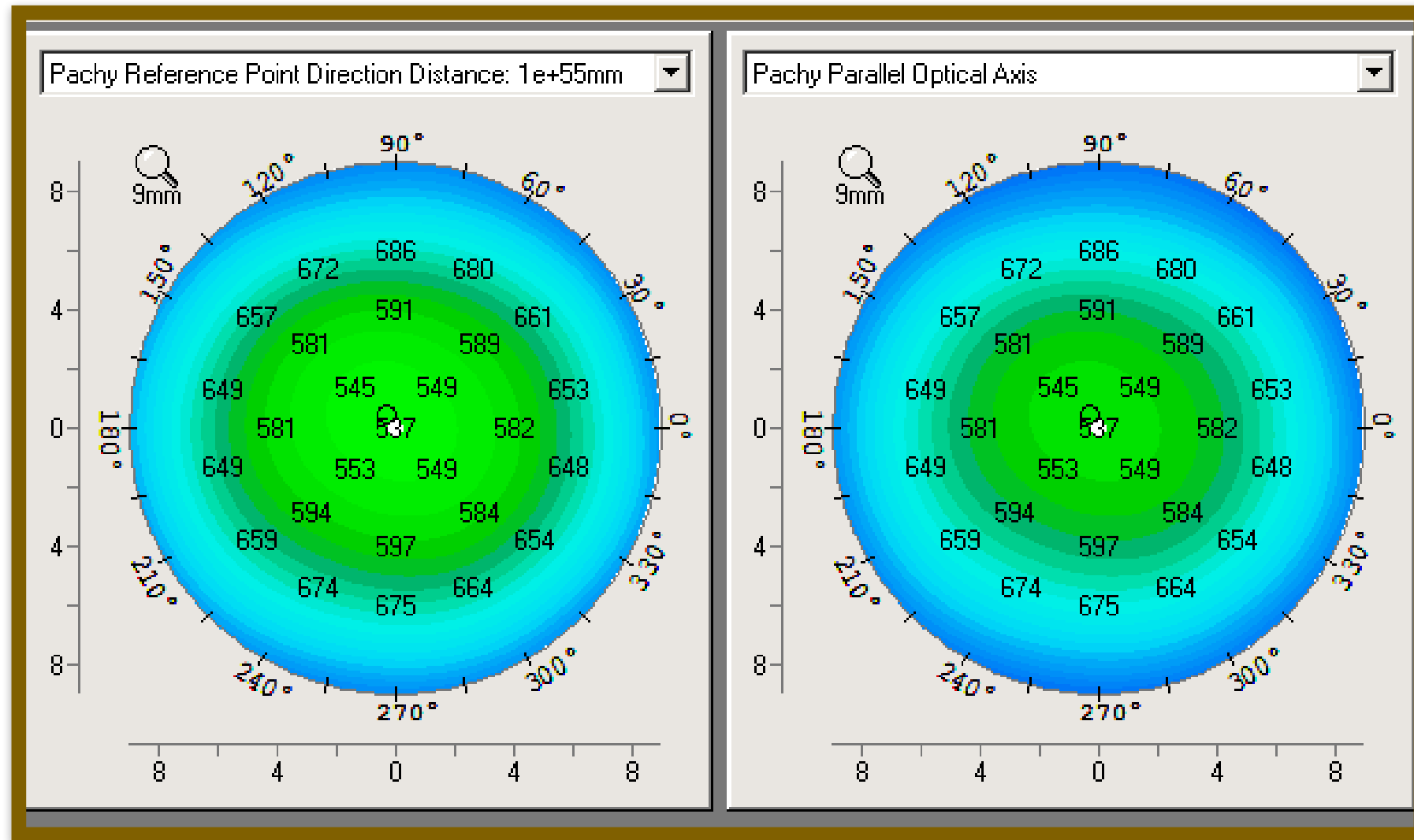
40 microns

30 microns

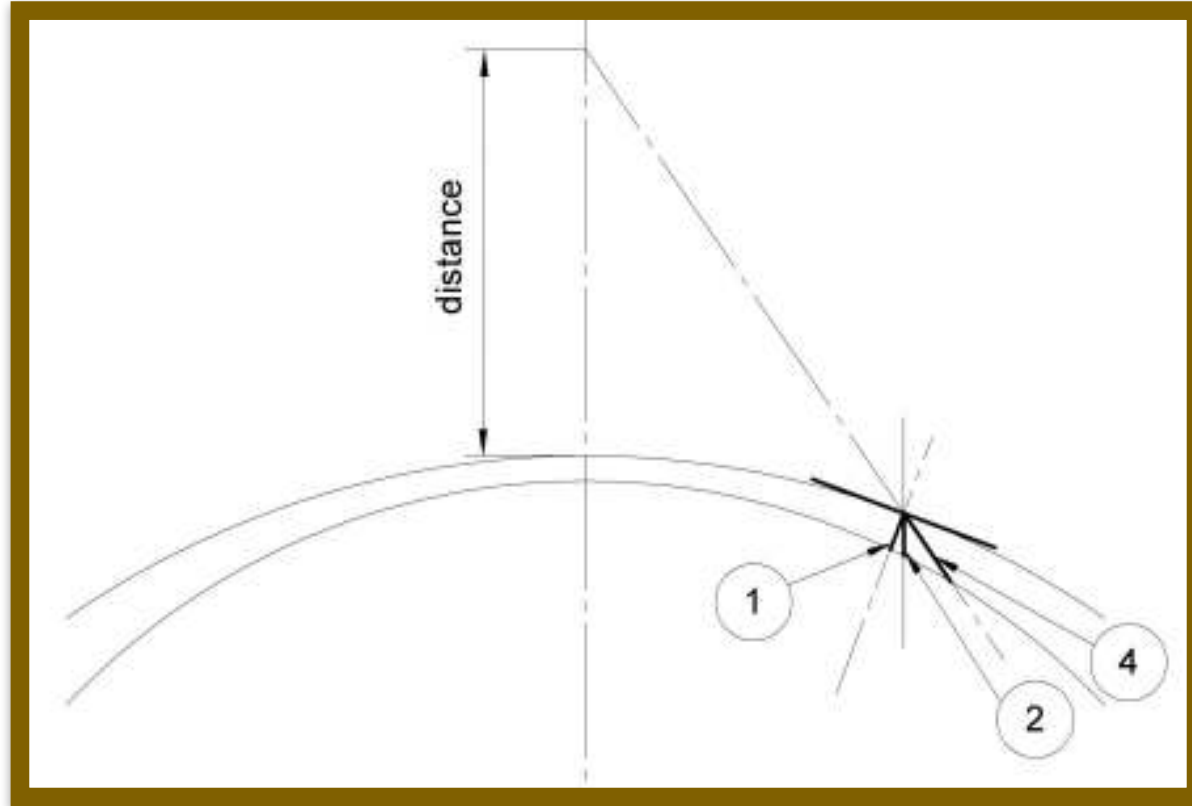
20 microns

10 microns

# Working distance at infinity should be the same as parallel cuts



# Measurements / Information can Vary



It is important to know exactly how the measurements are being made

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a human eye. The eye has light blue or greyish-blue irises with a dark, well-defined pupil. The eyelashes are dark, thick, and slightly curved. The skin around the eye is a warm, light brown tone. The overall lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the eyelashes and the skin.

Thank You