



For Immediate Release

Pivotal trial results behind the FDA's first ever clearance of an autonomous AI diagnostic system published in *Nature Digital Medicine*

Performance data for IDx-DR, an autonomous AI diagnostic system that detects diabetic retinopathy in primary care, are now available to the public

(Coralville, Iowa) August 28, 2018 – Pivotal trial results assessing the safety and efficacy of [IDx-DR](#), an autonomous AI diagnostic system that detects diabetic retinopathy, were published [online today](#) in the peer-reviewed, open access journal *Nature Digital Medicine*. IDx-DR enables millions of Americans with diabetes to be diagnosed for diabetic retinopathy, a leading cause of blindness, in primary care and retail clinics.

The paper, “Pivotal trial of an autonomous AI-based diagnostic system for detection of diabetic retinopathy in primary care offices,” includes results from the IDx-DR clinical trial that led to [FDA’s first ever clearance](#) of an autonomous AI diagnostic system that does not require a physician to interpret the image or results.

“This is formerly uncharted territory in healthcare, making it especially critical that we ensure the highest level of safety before introducing autonomous AI into patient care,” said Michael D. Abràmoff, MD, PhD, the study’s principal investigator and the founder and president of IDx. “That’s why it was so important for us to develop an exceptionally rigorous study that was reviewed by independent physician-scientists. Now that the results have been published in *Nature Digital Medicine*, scientists, physicians and patients can all evaluate the scientific evidence for the safety and effectiveness of an autonomous AI like IDx-DR.”

The IDx-DR pivotal trial, which is the first study to prospectively assess the performance of an autonomous AI system in patient care, involved 900 subjects with diabetes at 10 primary care sites across the U.S. The results showed that IDx-DR exceeded all pre-specified superiority endpoints at 87 percent sensitivity, 90 percent specificity, and a 96 percent imageability rate, demonstrating the AI system’s ability to bring specialty-level diagnostics to primary care settings.

According to John C. Parker, MD, FACE, ECNU, an endocrinologist with Wilmington Health in North Carolina and a principal investigator at one of the trial sites, healthcare professionals can have strong confidence in the system’s ability to detect diabetic retinopathy because of the trial’s robust research framework. “Not all trials are as thorough as this one, in that the IDx-DR system’s accuracy was checked against the leading reference standard for assessing diabetic retinopathy,” said Parker.

In the clinical study, IDx-DR achieved high diagnostic accuracy when compared to the most rigorous determination of the severity of diabetic retinopathy using advanced imaging techniques – wide-field stereo fundus imaging and optical coherence tomography (OCT) evaluated by the Wisconsin Fundus Photograph Reading Center. The Early Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy Treatment Study (ETDRS) severity scale was used as the reference standard.

IDx-DR enables health care providers who are not normally involved in eye care to test for diabetic retinopathy during routine office visits. Early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy has

been shown to prevent vision loss according to the [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#), yet less than 50 percent of people with diabetes visit an eye care provider for a retinal exam.

Abràmoff will further discuss the trial results during a webinar hosted by IDx on August 29, 2018 at 12 pm. Registration is available at <http://bit.ly/2nH4CgR>.

About IDx, LLC

IDx is a leading AI diagnostics company on a mission to transform the quality, accessibility, and affordability of healthcare. Founded in 2010 by a team of world-renowned clinician scientists, the company is focused on developing clinically-aligned autonomous algorithms that detect disease in medical images. By enabling diagnostic assessment in primary care settings, IDx aims to increase patient access to high-quality, affordable disease detection.

The company's first product, IDx-DR, is an FDA-cleared AI-based diagnostic system designed for use at the front lines of care to detect diabetic retinopathy. IDx-DR is intended for use by health care providers to automatically detect more than mild diabetic retinopathy in adults (22 years of age or older) diagnosed with diabetes who have not been previously diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy. IDx-DR is indicated for use with the Topcon NW400.

IDx is developing additional AI-based diagnostic algorithms for the detection of macular degeneration, glaucoma, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, and stroke risk.

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