



# Agreement of Rebound Tonometer in Measuring Intraocular Pressure With Three Types of Applanation Tonometers

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Title: Agreement of rebound tonometer in measuring intraocular pressure with three types of applanation tonometers.

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**Purpose:** To evaluate the agreement of ICARE rebound tonometer in measuring intraocular pressure (IOP) with Goldmann applanation tonometer (GAT), Tonopen XL, and non-contact tonometer (NCT) and the influence of the central corneal thickness (CCT) on IOP measurements made with these four tonometers in 45 (12 control and 33 glaucomatous or ocular hypertensive) eyes.

**Design:** Clinically relevant experimental study.

**Methods:** Tonometer inter-method agreement was assessed by the Bland-Altman method. The relations of CCT with absolute IOP values and inter-tonometer differences were analyzed by linear regression.

**Results:** The mean differences (95% limits of agreement) in IOP readings between ICARE and GAT, Tonopen XL, and NCT were 1.40 ( $\pm 4.29$ ), 0.00 ( $\pm 4.78$ ), and 2.22 ( $\pm 4.19$ ) mmHg, respectively. All tonometries had a significant association with CCT. The thicker the cornea, ICARE significantly overestimated GAT and Tonopen XL.

**Conclusions:** Although influenced by CCT, ICARE agrees well with applanation tonometers

A newly developed, hand-held, anesthetic-free rebound tonometer (ICRAE TA01; Tiolat, Helsinki, Finland) is a solenoid mechanism, which launches a magnetized probe and detects its motion parameters during impacting on the cornea<sup>1-4</sup>. However, the interchangeability of the ICARE with applanation tonometers and the effect of CCT on ICRAE in measuring intraocular pressure (IOP) remain investigated.

The purposes of this study were to evaluate whether ICARE agrees with three types of applanation tonometers in measuring IOP and to assess the influence of CCT on the IOP measurements made with these four tonometers.

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Enrolled were right eyes of 45 persons (15 males, 30 females) aged from 26 to 86 (mean  $\pm$  S.D., 52.0  $\pm$  20.0) years, which included 12 healthy volunteers and 33 patients with ocular hypertension or glaucoma. They had no histories of contact lens wear, anti-glaucoma hypotensive use, corneal surface diseases or intraocular surgeries.

The CCT was measured with a specular-type CCT measurement apparatus (NONCON ROBO; Konan Medical, Nishinomiya, Japan). IOP measurements were made sequentially in an order of the Canon TX-10 non-contact tonometer (NCT), ICARE, Tonopen XL (Medtronic Solan, Jacksonville, FL, USA), and Goldmann applanation tonometer (GAT; Haag-Streit AG, Bern, Switzerland) to avoid possible reduction in IOP induced by contact applanation tonometry. The median of three readings per instrument was used for comparison among tonometers<sup>5</sup>. Orthoptists performed the NCT. Tonopen XL performance was made by MN with only measurements with a

standard error smaller than 5% being accepted. MN also conducted on six consecutive measurements per patient with ICARE. When the P blinked or an error sign ‘-‘ was displayed, data were discarded and measurements were repeated until such error signs were not displayed. At GAT measurements, UD randomly set the dial around 10 mmHg and recorded the pressure, whereas MN applanated the cornea and turned the dial without looking.

The mean IOP with ICARE, GAT, NCT, and Tonopen XL was  $15.6 \pm 4.8$ ,  $14.1 \pm 4.2$ , 13.4, and 15.5 mmHg, respectively. Mean difference between ICARE and GAT, between ICARE and NCT, and between ICARE and Tonopen XL was  $1.40 \pm 2.19$ ,  $2.22 \pm 2.14$ , and  $0.00 \pm 2.44$  mmHg, respectively, with 95% limits of agreement<sup>6</sup> being bias  $\pm 4.29$ ,  $\pm 4.19$ , and  $\pm 4.78$  mmHg, respectively. The difference between the former two pairs was statistically significant (paired t-test,  $p < 0.0001$ ). As shown in Bland-Altman plots<sup>6</sup> with linear regression, ICARE constantly overestimated GAT over the range of measured IOP (Fig.1), whereas ICARE overestimated NCT and Tonopen XL at higher IOP and underestimated them at lower IOP (Figs. 2 and 3).

The mean CCT was  $530.4 \pm 44.1$ , ranging from 422 to 636  $\mu\text{m}$ . The associations between CCT and IOP measured with ICARE ( $r^2=0.352$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ), GAT ( $r^2=0.206$ ,  $p=0.001$ ), NCT ( $r^2=0.424$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ), and Tonopen XL ( $r^2=0.315$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) were all significant. Linear regression analyses also disclosed that ICARE overestimated GAT and Tonopen XL at higher CCT and underestimated them at lower CCT, whereas there was no significant association between the CCT and the ICARE to NCT difference (Figs. 1 through 3).

The mean difference and 95% limits of agreement between ICARE and GAT in two recent studies<sup>3,4</sup> ( $1.34$  and  $\pm 3.98$  mmHg, and  $1.8$  and  $\pm 5.5$  mmHg, respectively) fit the

present ones. ICARE also showed a good agreement in the IOP measurement with NCT and Tonopen XL. Thus, ICARE overall seems to be interchangeable with these applanation tonometers.

On the other hand, CCT affected ICARE measurements as well as the applanation tonometries<sup>7</sup>. Deceleration of the ICARE probe is claimed to be inversely proportional to IOP<sup>1,2</sup>. The present study demonstrated that the probe deceleration could be also influenced by corneal parameters; that is, the thicker or stiffer the cornea, the shorter the duration of the impact, which would cause ICARE to overestimate IOP.

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## Figure legends

Figure 1. The agreement of ICARE with Goldmann applanation tonometry (GAT) in measuring intraocular pressure (IOP) and the effect of central corneal thickness (CCT) on the inter-tonometry difference. Top. A Bland-Altman plot of agreement on IOP taken with ICARE against GAT. Solid line denotes mean difference (bias), whereas dotted lines 95% of limits of agreement. Bottom. A scattered plot of the ICARE to GAT difference against CCT.

Figure 2. . The agreement of ICARE with non-contact tonometer (NCT) in measuring intraocular pressure (IOP) and the effect of central corneal thickness (CCT) on the inter-tonometry difference. Top. A Bland-Altman plot of agreement on IOP taken with ICARE against NCT. Solid line denotes mean difference (bias), whereas dotted lines 95% of limits of agreement. Bottom. A scattered plot of the ICARE to NCT difference against CCT.

Figure 3. The agreement of ICARE with Tonopen XL in measuring intraocular pressure (IOP) and the effect of central corneal thickness (CCT) on the inter-tonometry difference. Top. A Bland-Altman plot of agreement on IOP taken with ICARE against Tonopen XL. Solid line denotes mean difference (bias), whereas dotted lines 95% of limits of agreement. Bottom. A scattered plot of the ICARE to Tonopen XL difference against CCT.



Fig.1

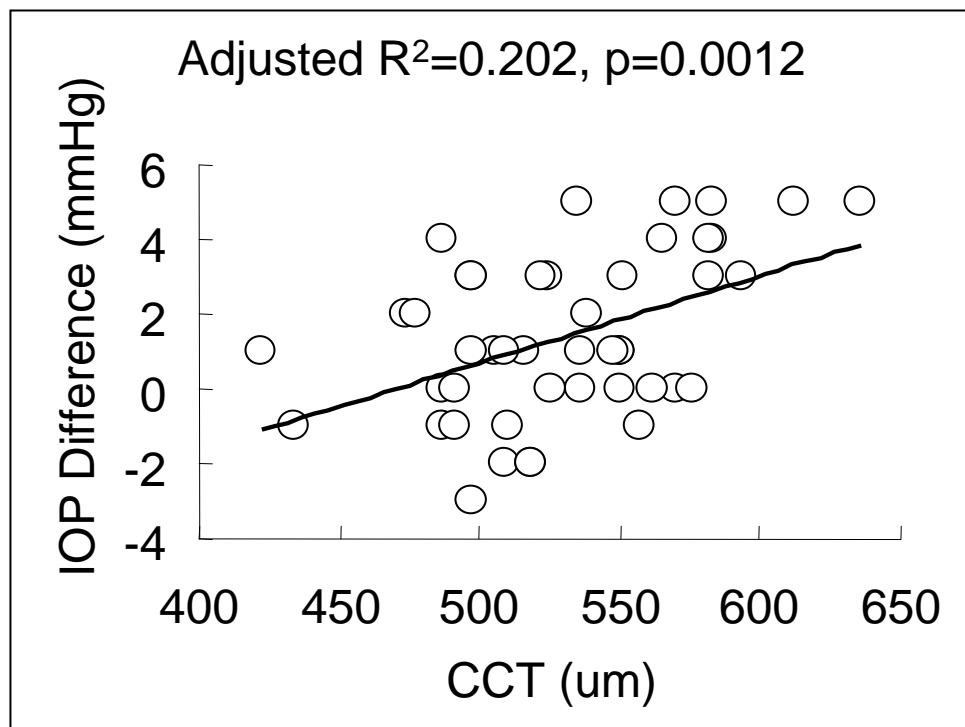
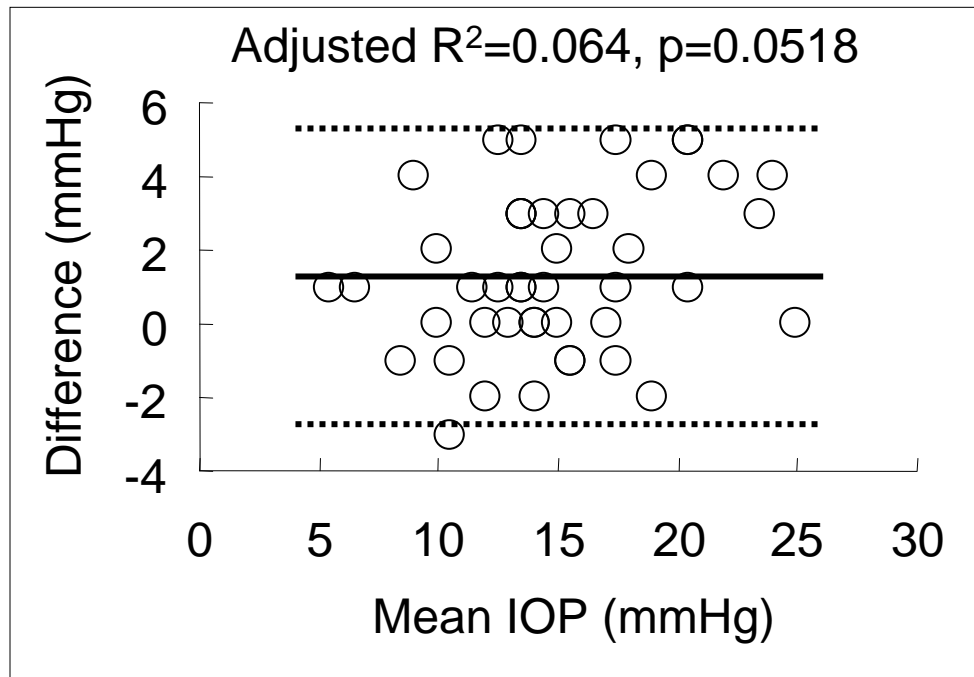


Fig. 2

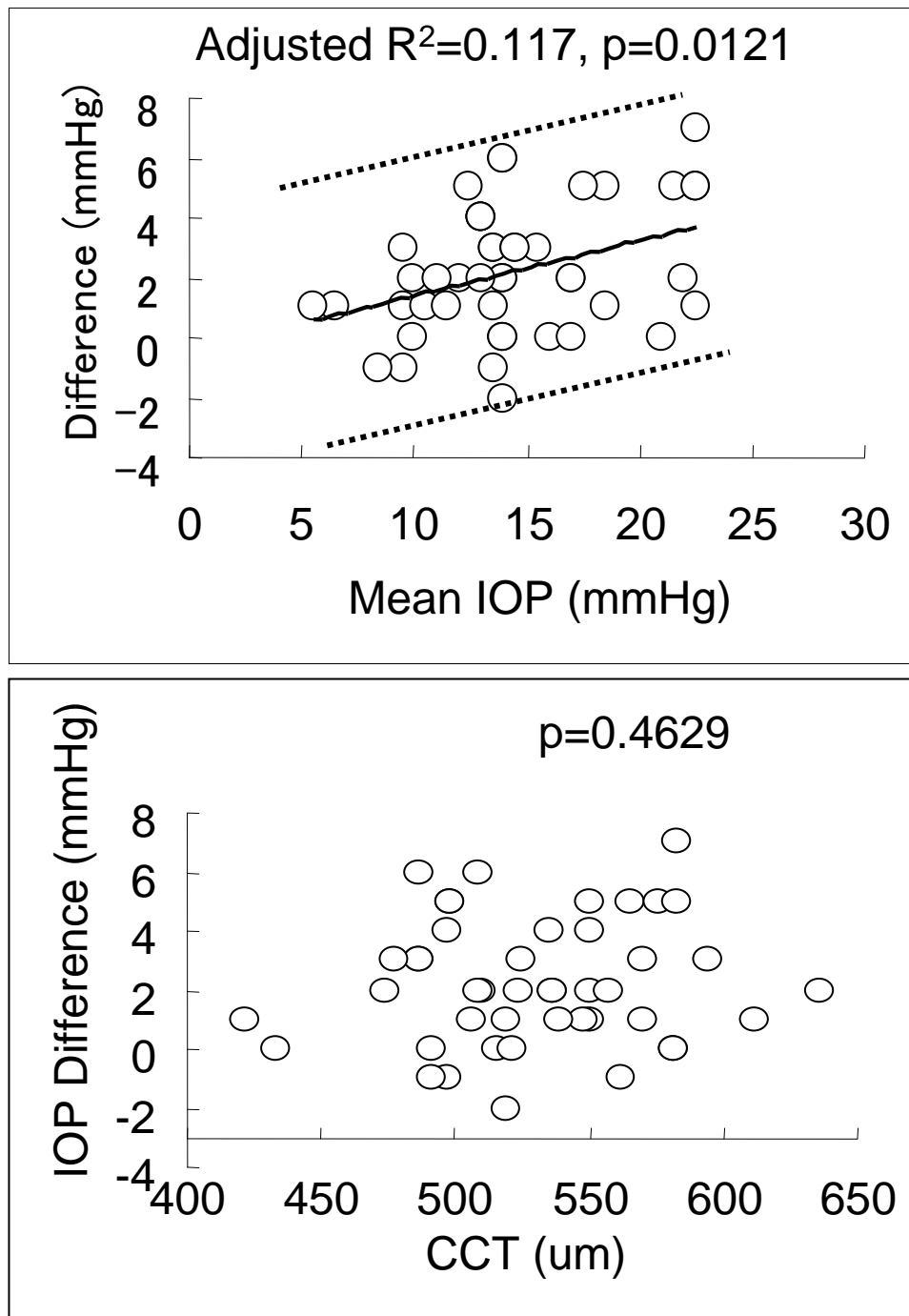


Fig. 3

