An 84 year old Caucasian female was referred for examination. She has hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and sleep apnoea. Below is an image of her optic nerve and Cirrus RNFL analysis. What is the cause of the apparently increased RNFL thickness in this patient in the right eye?
ANSWER

Vitreopapillary traction syndrome.

This refers to the persistent attachment of the vitreous around the optic disc following a partial posterior vitreous detachment. Vitreopapillary traction with idiopathic ERM has been shown in the literature to be associated with altered architecture of the optic disc, increased average RNFL thickness, and visual field defects (Kim et al. 2014).

Vitreopapillary traction can mimic disc oedema as it can cause blurring of the disc margins and obscuration of the vessels. OCT imaging is useful in differentiating this condition from true papilloedema.

References

