

Reading Centers in Clinical Trials – The Industry Perspective

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Clinical trials of investigational new drugs for diabetic eye disease are long and costly undertakings. The data must be of the highest quality and reliability. Any discrepancies in the data can call into question the validity of the entire trial. Therefore, in a trial where one of the key outcomes is anatomic the choice of reading center is critical. Factors to be considered in choosing a reading center include: history of the center's participation in similar trials, capacity, experience of graders, work flow processes, academic credentials of key staff, and, most importantly, the ability/willingness of the center to enter into a long-term collaboration. This final point is one that deserves special mention and my presentation will provide specific examples of how such a collaboration has been essential for our ongoing program.