Supplementary Figure I. SCF and cKit mRNA expression levels increase in the retina of STZ-induced diabetic rats.

The mRNA levels of SCF and cKit in retina tissues from non-DM and DM rats were analyzed by using RT-PCR. Gene expression of both SCF and cKit significantly increased at 2 weeks after DM onset (DM 2WK), corresponding to a known time point of retinal vascular leakage. The mRNA expression levels of SCF and cKit were further enhanced at 5 weeks after DM onset (DM 5WK). Data are expressed as the fold change ± the SEM with respect to the non-DM group (*p < 0.05, n = 4).
**Supplementary Figure II. Intravitreous injection of masitinib induces no change in blood glucose levels and body weights of STZ-induced diabetic rats.**

Blood glucose and body weight were measured at 3, 8, and 14 days after DM onset. There was no statistically significant difference between DMSO-treated and masitinib-treated DM rats (*p < 0.05 vs. non-DM, NS = not significant, n = 6).