Figure Supplementary 1:

Plot diagram of sign and symptom variables (T-BUT and OSDI) versus age. Graphs show significant worsening of signs and symptoms with increased age. ANOVA analysis followed by Tukey-Kramer post hoc: p Values are reported in the panels. Data are mean values ± Standard Deviation (SD).

Figure Supplementary 2:

Normalized IL-8 cycle threshold (Ct) values. Ct values are inverse to mRNA. Relative real-time PCR amplification was carried out and the mean normalized Ct values (± Standard Deviation) of
each groups are shown in the bar graph. A significant difference was observed between middle age and old groups (p<0.001) and between middle age and young groups (p<0.001), as shown in the histogram (oneway ANOVA Tukey-Kramer post hoc). The Ct mean value of the young is indicated by dashed line. Note that the Ct values are inverse to target gene expression [19]. Study population is represented by volunteers considering themselves as healthy subjects.