Characterization of the reference points

Once the overlay had been designed at baseline, it was copied and pasted to the autofluorescence image at each time point, using the Draw Region Software (HSF Region Finder Module, version 2.6.2.0, Heidelberg Engineering, Germany). In order to maximize the overlay pasting reliability, the software asked to identify at least 3 reference points in each follow up image: we indicated 5 vessels intersections (white arrows). A: baseline; B: 1 year; C: 3 years; D: 5 years.