

# DIABETIC RETINOPATHY: UNDERSTANDING BARRIERS AND BUILDING EQUITY

**Matthew Cunningham, MD, FASRS**  
Florida Retina Institute  
New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology  
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## Financial Disclosure

- Consultant: Alimera, Allergan, Alcon, **Genentech**, Ocuphire Pharm, Ocular Therapeutics, ANI Pharmaceuticals
- Investigator: Alimera, Genentech, Inc., Jaeb Center for Health Research, Regeneron, Novartis, Ocuphire Pharm, Parexel, Ocular Therapeutics
- Speaker: Genentech, Inc., Apellis, Astellas, Regeneron

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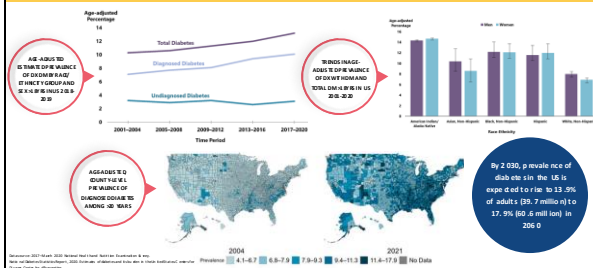
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## DIABETES IS INCREASING IN PREVALENCE IN THE U.S.




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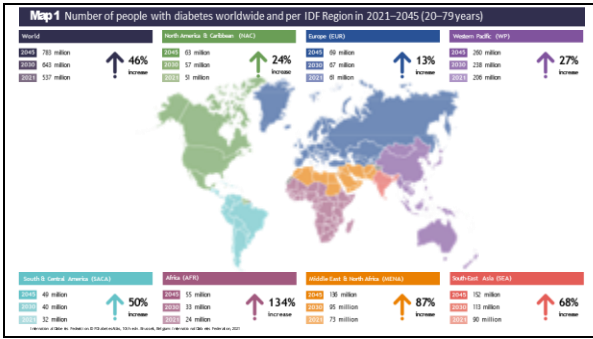
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### DIABETIC RETINOPATHY – RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Among those with diabetes, the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy was **33.4% in Hispanics** and **26.5% in Blacks** compared to **18.2% in Whites**<sup>1</sup>

Blacks also had an **increased risk of developing moderate/severe retinopathy** compared to Caucasians<sup>2</sup>

**Native Americans** have one of the highest prevalence rates of diabetic retinopathy, with a rate of **45.3%** compared with non-Native American populations<sup>1</sup>

Compared to Caucasians, **Blacks and Hispanics have increased insulin resistance** and augmented insulin secretion/hyperinsulinemia independent of adiposity<sup>3</sup>

Source: 1. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20. 2. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20. 3. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20.

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### DIABETES-ASSOCIATED CO-MORBIDITIES

Primary providers of diabetes care coordinate with multiple specialties

- Diabetic retinopathy<sup>1</sup>  
28.5% of diabetes patients ≥40 years old have DR
- Stroke<sup>4</sup>  
9.1% of diabetes patients ≥55 years old
- Coronary heart disease<sup>4</sup>  
21.9% of diabetes patients ≥55 years old have coronary heart disease or angina or have had a myocardial infarction
- Diabetic nephropathy<sup>3</sup>  
29.9% of patients with diabetes
- Diabetic neuropathy<sup>1</sup>  
60%-70% of people with diabetes have some form of nervous system damage
- 13.6% have diabetic macular edema (DME)<sup>5</sup>

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Diabetes Fact Sheet, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/factsheet/>. 2. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20. 3. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20. 4. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20. 5. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2023. Diabetes Care. 2023;46(Suppl 1):S19–S20.

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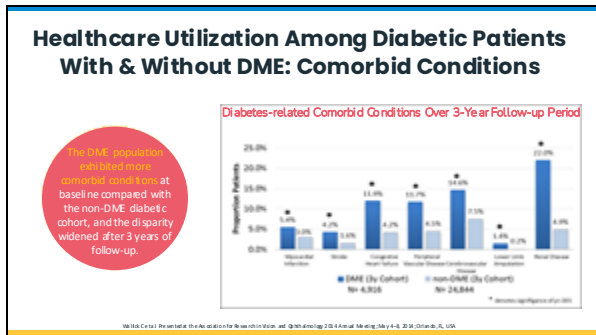
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### Demographic, Non-demographic & Social Factors in Health Disparity

“A health disparity is a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage.” —US government

**Demographic**

- Sex or gender
- Race or ethnicity
- Age
- Geography (rural vs urban)
- Genetics

**Non-Demographic**

- Comorbidities
- Disability
- Environmental factors
- Adherence
- Can be *historically, socially, and culturally determined*

**Social**

- Socioeconomic status/income
- Education/literacy
- Immigrant status
- Religion
- Food insecurity
- Includes those within SDOH

US - United States SDOH - social determinants of health. Source: HHS.gov. See the full report at <https://www.hhs.gov/ashraf/2014/06/24/social-determinants-of-health-report/>. © 2014. All rights reserved. This report is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or financial advice. It is not a substitute for professional advice. It is not a guarantee of results. It is not a warranty. It is not a contract. It is not a statement of fact. It is not a statement of opinion. It is not a statement of intent. It is not a statement of recommendation. It is not a statement of endorsement. It is not a statement of approval. It is not a statement of disapproval. It is not a statement of preference. It is not a statement of objection. It is not a statement of abstention. It is not a statement of non-participation. It is not a statement of withdrawal. It is not a statement of resignation. It is not a statement of termination. It is not a statement of cancellation. It is not a statement of annulment. It is not a statement of rescission. It is not a statement of discharge. It is not a statement of release. It is not a statement of satisfaction. It is not a statement of dissatisfaction. It is not a statement of agreement. It is not a statement of disagreement. It is not a statement of consent. It is not a statement of non-consent. It is not a statement of assent. It is not a statement of dissent. It is not a statement of approval. It is not a statement of disapproval. It is not a statement of preference. It is not a statement of objection. It is not a statement of abstention. It is not a statement of non-participation. It is not a statement of withdrawal. It is not a statement of resignation. It is not a statement of termination. It is not a statement of cancellation. It is not a statement of annulment. It is not a statement of rescission. It is not a statement of discharge. It is not a statement of release. It is not a statement of satisfaction. It is not a statement of dissatisfaction. It is not a statement of agreement. It is not a statement of disagreement. It is not a statement of consent. It is not a statement of non-consent. It is not a statement of assent. It is not a statement of dissent.

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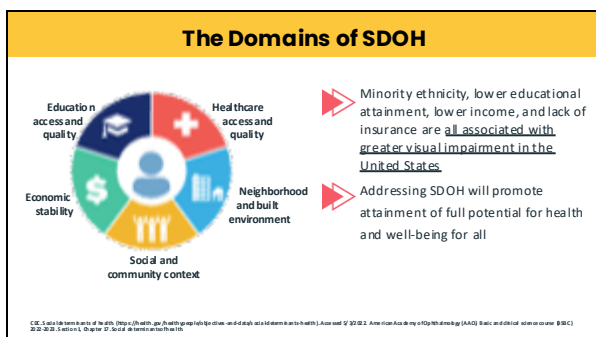
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Comparative Study | Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2020 Apr;27(2):93-97. doi: 10.1080/09286580.2019.1660703. Epub 2019 Oct 28.

### Associations of Social Determinants of Health and Self-Reported Visual Difficulty: Analysis of the 2016 National Health Interview Survey

Nancy H Su<sup>1</sup>, Nathaniel R Mason<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Wang<sup>2</sup>, Dustin D French<sup>1,2,3</sup>

➤ Non-White race, lower educational attainment, lower income, and being uninsured were associated with higher rates of visual impairment

➤ Male gender were associated with decreased risk of visual impairment

Gender	OR	95% CI	P-value
Male	0.91	0.88	0.04
Female	—	—	Reference
Race*			
Black	1.32	1.25	1.39
Hispanic	1.61	1.55	1.67
Other	1.36	1.27	1.45
Multiracial	1.47	1.34	1.62
White	—	—	Reference
Education			
Did not graduate high school	1.68	1.59	1.78
Completed high school	1.26	1.20	1.32
Attended college or technical school	1.20	—	1.25
Completed college or technical school	—	—	Reference
Annual household income (\$)			
< \$2,000	4.56	4.31	4.83
\$2,000–\$5,000	2.40	2.27	2.54
\$5,000–\$7,500	1.86	1.76	1.96
\$7,500+	—	—	Reference
Health insurance coverage			
No	1.07	1.01	1.13
Yes	—	—	Reference



Ophthalmology. 2022 Apr;129(4):456-458. doi: 10.1096/j.ophtha.2021.10.012. Epub 2021 Oct 12.

### Disparities in Self-Reported Difficulty Seeing in the United States

Sara Al Hussein Al Awamleh<sup>1</sup>, Sean Berkowitz<sup>2</sup>, Mark P Bazzano<sup>2</sup>, Auni P Finn<sup>3</sup>, Shiji Patel<sup>1</sup>

Table 1. Self-Reported Difficulty Seeing Based on Socioeconomic Demographics

Characteristic	Percentage	95% CI
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Unemployed	22.3	(22.0–22.6)
Not employed	22.9	(22.6–23.2)
Full-time	22.1	(21.8–22.4)
Part-time	18.7	(18.4–19.0)
Not employed but has worked previously	22.9	(22.6–23.2)
Not employed but has never worked	22.2	(21.9–22.5)
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school diploma	28.8	(28.5–29.1)
High school diploma or GED	48.0	(47.7–48.3)
Some college	18.8	(18.5–19.1)
College degree or higher	38.8	(38.5–39.1)
<b>Primary State</b>		
Low	24.0	(23.7–24.3)
Mid	26.0	(25.7–26.3)
High	24.0	(23.7–24.3)
<b>Health Insurance Coverage: Adults Aged 18–64 Yrs</b>		
Private	22.3	(22.0–22.6)
Medicaid or other public	22.9	(22.6–23.2)
Other coverage	21.6	(21.3–21.9)
Uninsured	46.8	(46.5–47.1)
<b>Health Insurance Coverage at 65 Yrs</b>		
Private and Medicaid	18.3	(18.0–18.6)
Medicare Advantage	21.6	(21.3–21.9)
Medicare only (no Advantage)	22.3	(22.0–22.6)
Other coverage	24.0	(23.7–24.3)
Uninsured	24.0	(23.7–24.3)

CI = confidence interval; GED = General Educational Diploma

Difficulty seeing was reported at higher rates in unemployed, lower educated, poor income, and lower tiered insurance



### Significant Visual Disparities Exist Across Race, Income & Comorbidities

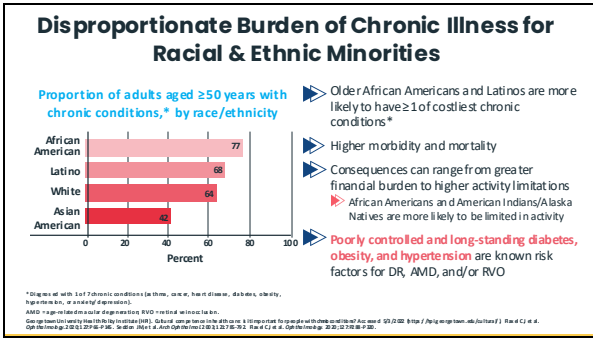
Data from 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (N = 426,302)

Odds for visual impairment (95% CI, P < .001)

- Minority race and lower income are also associated with higher rates of visual impairment
- Causes of disparity are complex and likely influenced by patient-, provider-, and healthcare systems-level factors

Multivariate adjusted odds ratios, 95% CI, P < .001. \*P < .05. \*\*P < .01. \*\*\*P < .001. CI = confidence interval; OR = odds ratio.






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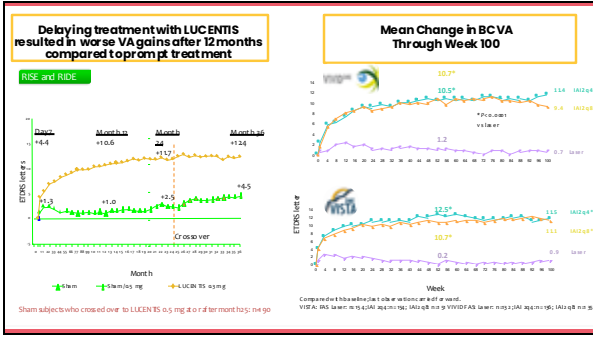
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### Real World Data Study (2021)

Racial, Ethnic, and Insurance-Based Disparities Upon Initiation of Anti-VEGF Therapy for Diabetic Macular Edema in the United States

Nisha A. Malhotra, MPH, Tyler E. Greenlee, DO, Amogh I. Iyer, BS, Thais F. Conti, MD, Andrew X. Chen, BSE, Rishi P. Singh, MD

- Using IRIS registry data from 2012-2020
- n= 203,707 patients
- Black and Hispanics present with worse Baseline DR Severity

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### Race & Ethnicity Have Impact on Treatment Efficacy: Retrospective Cohort Study of Bevacizumab for DME

- Black patients had a **significantly lower likelihood of visual acuity improvement** following 3 injections of intravitreal bevacizumab (OR= 0.342)
- No difference in **CMT reductions** after 1 or 3 injections in any group
- If no improvement after first injection, likelihood of improving after 3 was low
- Race can potentially impact Tx response
- Further research is needed to understand the effect of race and ethnicity for optimal treatment of each individual patient

Group	1 injection	3 injections
White	50.00	58.54
Black	26.71	23.82
Hispanic	39.39	54.76

Chen et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2023;101:1033-1041

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## Disparities in Retinal Clinical Trials

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### Disparities in DME trials

Protocol	Drug	% African American/Black	% Latin American/Hispanic	% White
Protocol 1*	L/E/A	15.6	N/A	66.1
RIDE/RIDE*	L	12.2	22.3*	79.4
BULEVARD*	F/L	18.5	17.2*	76.9
YOSEMITE/RHINE*	F/E	6.5	16.6	78.5
VIVID/VISTA*	E	6.1	N/A	81.7

\* Data from clinical trial reports and publications. Percentages are based on the number of patients who completed the study. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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Minority populations have been **largely underrepresented in clinical trials** that led to FDA-approved ophthalmology therapies

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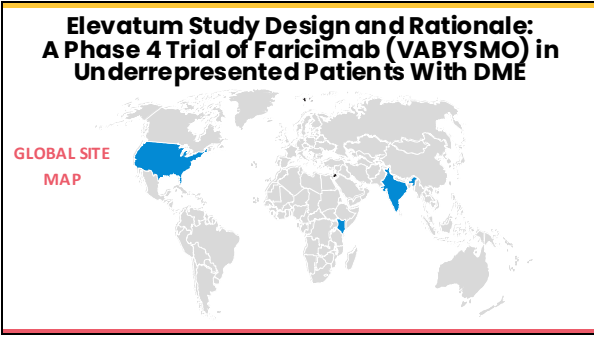
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### Elevatum: Key Eligibility Criteria

Key General Inclusion Criteria	Key Ocular Inclusion Criteria for the Study Eye
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Patients ≥ 18 years who self-identify as:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Black/African American (~45%)</li> <li>- Hispanic/Latino American (~45%)</li> <li>- Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (~10%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Patients with type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus who are regularly using insulin, other injectable drugs, or oral anti-hyperglycemic agents                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HbA1c ≤ 10% during screening (up to 20% of enrolled patients may have HbA1c up to 12%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Patients* with DME without prior IVT anti-VEGFs or any IVT or periorbital corticosteroids</li> <li>✓ BCVA of 20-73 ETDRS letters (~20/40-20/400 Snellen) (both inclusive) at the initial testing distance of 4 meters at baseline (day 1)</li> <li>✓ CST of ≥ 325 μm†</li> </ul>
	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">✗ Key Ocular Exclusion Criteria for the Fellow Eye</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;">Ongoing treatment with brodalumab or bevacizumab</div>

\*Patients with a history of prior IVT anti-VEGFs or periorbital corticosteroids are eligible for the fellow eye. †CST measured at baseline (day 1).  
© 2025 Novartis. All rights reserved. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product. Please consult your healthcare provider for more information.

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**ELEVATUM Preliminary Results** (*presented at AAO 2024*)

- Of the 124 U.S. participants, 48% self-identified as Black and/or African American, and 45% self-identified as Hispanic and/or Latino
- Initial results showed clinically meaningful improvement in vision and reduction in retinal fluid
- **Efficacy and safety results were consistent with data from the Faricimab-svoa Phase III DME studies.**
- After one year of treatment with Faricimab-svoa administered every eight weeks, participants could read an additional 12.3 letters on average
  - Hispanic and Latino participants started the study with the most severe disease and had an average vision gain of 14.1 letters at one year
  - African American and Black participants gained 11.3 letters at one year
- Faricimab-svoa was well tolerated, with no new safety events identified




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**Key Takeaways**

- ▶ Diabetes is "a pandemic of unprecedented magnitude" now affecting one in 10 adults worldwide
- ▶ Disparities in diabetes are associated with age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and access to healthcare.
- ▶ Racial and ethnic minorities with more SDOH have higher rates of morbidity and mortality
- ▶ Understand the differential responses to treatment
- ▶ Minority populations have been **largely underrepresented in clinical trials** that led to FDA-approved ophthalmology therapies
- ▶ Continue to develop safe, efficacious medications with better durability to decrease treatment burden

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**THANK YOU**

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## Improving Outcomes in Patients With RVO: Tailoring Treatment

Carl J. Danzig, MD  
Rand Eye Institute  
Deerfield Beach, FL



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## RVO: The Second Most Prevalent Retinal Vascular Disease

- RVO is estimated to affect 28 million adults worldwide
- RVO is the second most common cause of vision loss due to retinal vascular disease (after diabetic retinopathy)
- The most common reason for vision loss in RVO is macular edema
- BRVO is 3 to 10 times more common than CRVO

 <p>Prevalence increases with age        &gt;1 million people &gt;65 yr of age are currently affected by RVO in Europe (0.7% prevalence)</p>	 <p>Affects men and women equally</p>	 <p>Prevalence may be higher in Asian and Hispanic populations</p>
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angio.org/download/for-mat.html\_Guide5Sense\_of\_CRVO.pdf\_aurelia.org; laurai. Eye (Lond). 2011;25:981. Mitty. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2013;1:CD009810. Rogier VJ, et al. Ophthalmology. 2010;117:2113. Song J. Glob Health. 2015;9:101047.

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## Epidemiology

- Retinal vein occlusions (RVOs) are a **leading cause** of retinal vascular disease and include:
  - Central RVO (CRVO)
  - He mi RVO (HRVO)
  - Branch RVO (BRVO)
- BRVOs account for nearly 80% of RVOs
- Average age: 65 yr
- VA and age are predictors of outcomes
- RVO risk factors include hypertension, diabetes mellitus, atherosclerosis, and open-angle glaucoma

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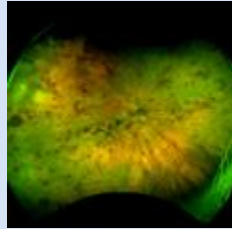
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### Evaluation and Treatment RVO

- Systemic risk factors
- Treatment goals:
  - Address macular edema
  - Unable to resolve ischemia ... ischemia may progress independent of treatment




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### Systemic Evaluation

- No definitive guidelines
- Patients aged >50 yr with risk factors:
  - Refer back to primary care provider
  - Optimize blood pressure, lipids, and blood glucose
- Patients aged <50 yr without risk factors
  - Consider evaluation for inborn or acquired causes of hypercoagulability

Yau, Internal Med J. 2008;38:904.

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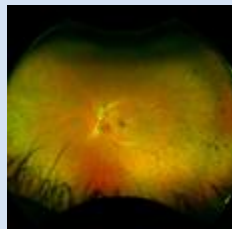
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### Diagnosis of RVO

- Clinical diagnosis
  - Typically, dilation + tortuosity retinal veins AND retinal hemorrhages
  - Usually sufficient for diagnosis of acute cases
- Utility of multimodal imaging
  - Atypical/equivocal features/young patients
  - Chronic
  - Confirm diagnosis/presence of CME
  - Evaluate for coexisting features: PAMM, DRIL, outer retinal disruption, FAZ integrity
  - OCT bio markers for prognosis
  - Quantify ischemia: peripheral or FAZ
  - Evaluate response to therapy and need for further therapy, direct treat-and-extend
  - Better understand pathogenesis



Talbot, K. Review of Ophthalmology. <https://www.elsevier.com/locate/jvo>-diagnosis-and-management. Image courtesy of Avir FinnMD, MBA

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### Options for Multimodal Imaging in RVO

- Clinical examination to treat
- OCT
  - Confirm CME, tailoring treatment regimen
  - Rule out/other pathology
  - Explain visual field deficits
  - Evaluate new therapies
  - OCT biomarkers: prognostic features, AI
- OCT angiography
  - Exploration of pathogenesis, reduce need for fluorescein angiography (FA)



Rehman N. Retina Today, 2018. <https://retinatoday.com/article/2018-app/imaging-options-in-retinal-vein-occlusion>. Image courtesy of Avinash MD, MBA

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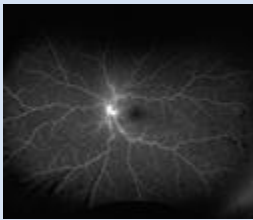
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### Options for Multimodal Imaging in RVO



- Fluorescein angiography
  - Confirm diagnosis especially atypical RVO, young patients
  - Ischemic index, predict neovascular response
  - Identify retinal artery occlusion (RAO), other vascular disease
- Wide field and multimodal imaging: individualized, machine learning, entire picture

Rehman N. Retina Today, 2018. Image courtesy

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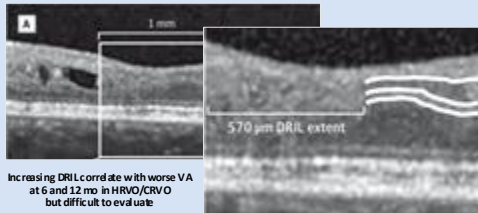
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### OCT Biomarkers – Disorganization of the Retinal Inner Layers



Increasing DRIL correlates with worse VA at 6 and 12 mo in HRVO/CRVO but difficult to evaluate

Suro K, JA MA. Ophthalmol. 2014;132:1309.

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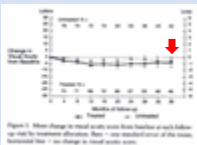
### Laser Treatment for Macular Edema (ME) following RVO

- Macular laser photocoagulation **became standard of care for treatment of ME following RVO in BRVO** due to findings in the Branch Vein Occlusion Study
- Laser was **not beneficial** for ME following RVO in the Central Vein Occlusion Study

**Abstract**

The Branch Vein Occlusion Study is a multi-center, randomized, controlled trial to test treatment for macular edema following the management of nonischemic branch vein occlusion. The study focuses on the question, "Is argon laser photocoagulation useful in treating macular edema with branch vein occlusion and macular edema following vein occlusion?" The treatment arms include laser photocoagulation, intravitreal injection of triamcinolone, or intravitreal injection of ranibizumab. The study is currently recruiting patients.

Branch Vein Occlusion Study<sup>1</sup>

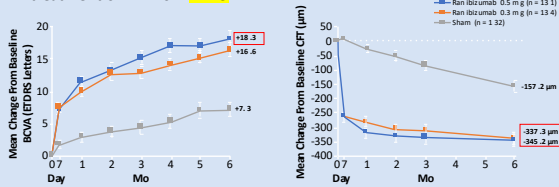


Central Vein Occlusion Study<sup>2</sup>

1. The Branch Vein Occlusion Study Group. Am J Ophthalmol. 1994;115:99-121.  
 2. The Central Vein Occlusion Study Group. Ophthalmology. 1995;102:825.

### Phase III BRAVO: Results

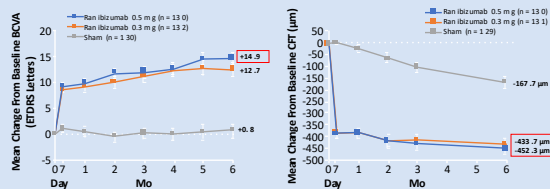
- The phase III BRAVO study established the efficacy of **ranibizumab** for treatment of ME from **BRVO**



Campoliti, Ophthalmology. 2010;117:1102.

### Phase III CRUISE: Results

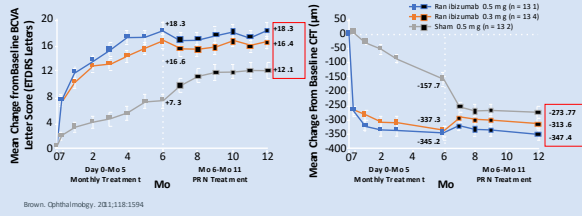
- Phase III **CRUISE** study established efficacy of **ranibizumab** for treatment of ME from **CRVO**



Brown. Ophthalmology. 2010;117:1124

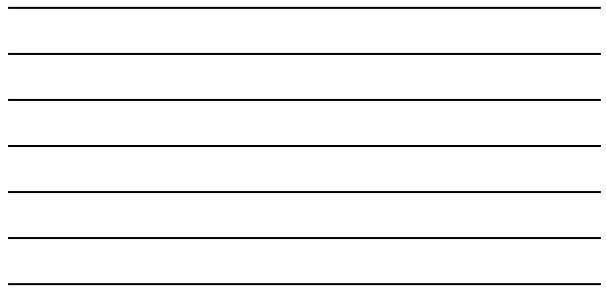
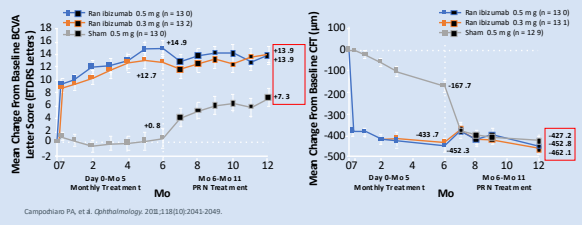
### Phase III BRAVO: 12-Mo Results

- Monthly ranibizumab bPRN ranibizumab shows sustained effects
- Sham ranibizumab anatomical outcomes similar at 12 mo, but vision outcomes lag

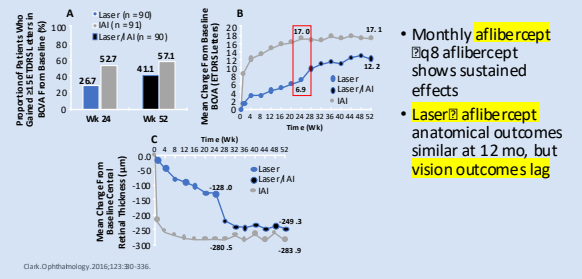


### Phase III CRUISE: 12-Mo Results

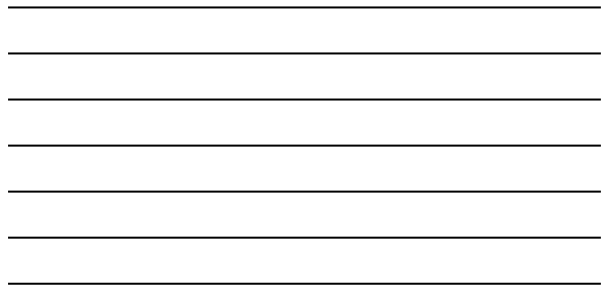
- Monthly ranibizumab bPRN ranibizumab shows sustained effects
- Sham ranibizumab anatomical outcomes similar at 12 mo, but vision outcomes lag

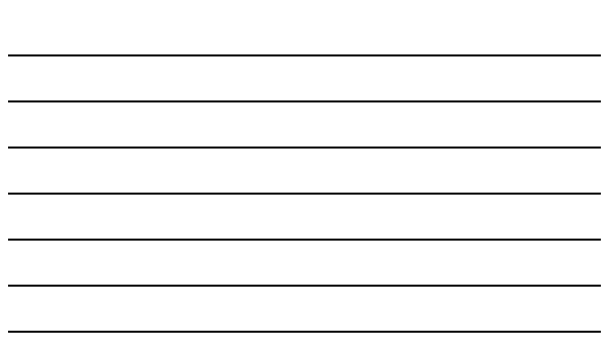
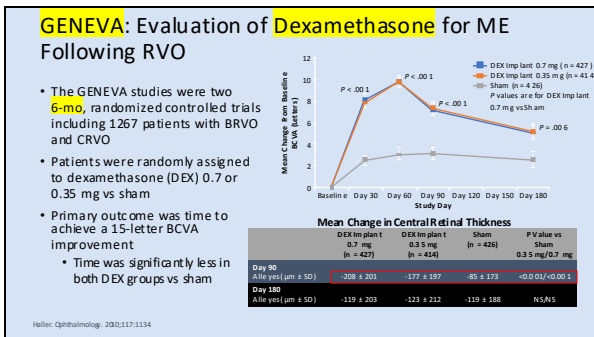
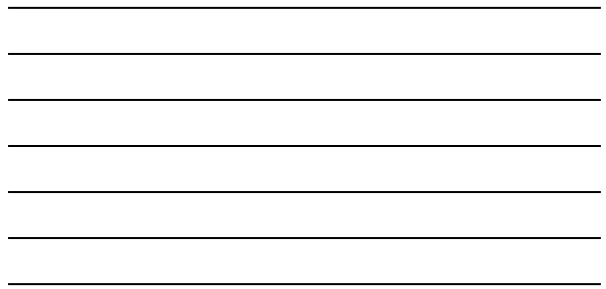
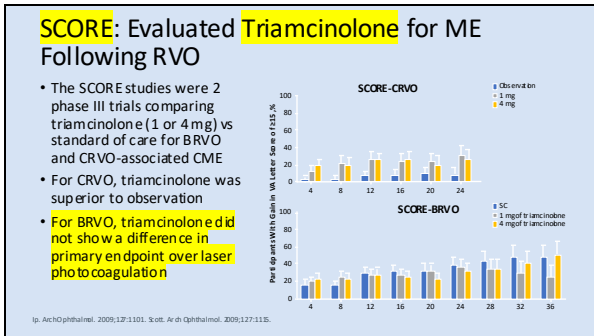
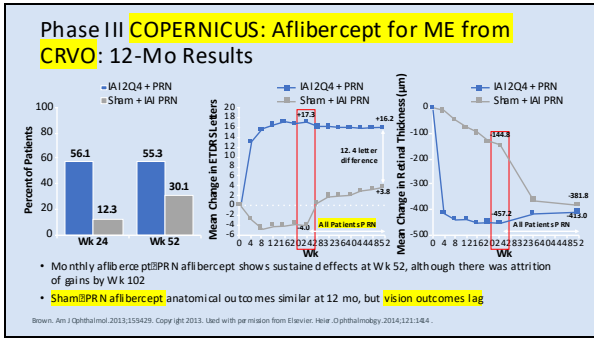


### Phase III VIBRANT: Afibercept for ME from BRVO: 6- and 12-Mo Results



- Monthly aflibercept q8 aflibercept shows sustained effects
- Laser aflibercept anatomical outcomes similar at 12 mo, but vision outcomes lag





## GENEVA and SCORE: Cataract and IOP Events

- In GENEVA, there was no significant difference in cataract rate between groups over 180 days
  - In MEAD, cataract rate was about 65% over 3 yr for patients treated with DEX
- At day 60 in GENEVA, <16% of eyes had IOP  $\geq 25$  mm Hg; increases were typically transient, with no difference between groups by Day 180
  - Nearly all cases of elevated IOP were managed with observation or topical medications
- In SCORE studies, the rates of elevated IOP and cataract were similar for the observation and 1-mg groups, but higher in the 4-mg group

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## Burden of RVO



### Regular appointments

- 53% of working patients take  $\geq 1$  day off work per appointment
- 71% of patients require caregiver assistance for appointments



### Healthcare resource utilization (HCRU) and increased costs

- Patients with RVO:
- Have higher 1-yr HCRU than patients with hypertensive or glaucoma
  - Incur greater healthcare expenditures over the course of 1 and 3 yrs compared with patients with hypertension or glaucoma
- This increase is primarily driven by use of imaging services and the same eye\*



### Frequent injections

- Patients with RVO undergo intravitreal treatment regimens that require frequent long-term injections
- ~75% of patients reported experiencing injection anxiety; 54% reported anxiety for at least 2 days before the injection†

Patients primarily desire **fewer injections and fewer appointments** in their treatment regimen for the **same visual results**

\*Except OCT. This study included more patients with DM (n = 86) than patients with RVO (n = 45), and patients with DM reported being more sight impaired (0.24 vs 0.07), having disease with greater effect on day (30% vs 18%), and having greater reduction in concentration (17% vs 4%) when compared with patients with RVO.

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## Real-world Outcomes for Patients With RVO



### Frequent injections

- In the real world, patients with RVO continue to require frequent anti-VEGF injections, which impose significant burden on patients
- A personalized treatment approach may help reduce the frequency of anti-VEGF injections and reduce patient burden



### Worse vision gains and maintenance of visual gains

- Observational studies have found worse vision gains and maintenance of visual gains with anti-VEGF therapies in the real world compared with clinical trials, in which there are high rates of treatment adherence
- Frequent office visits associated with anti-VEGF therapy are difficult to sustain in the real world
  - Patients receive fewer injections than are needed in the real world, which results in worse vision gains and maintenance of visual gains

Developing RVO therapies that **improve visual outcomes and require less-frequent intravitreal injections** are needed to **reduce the burden of RVO and may improve compliance in the real world**

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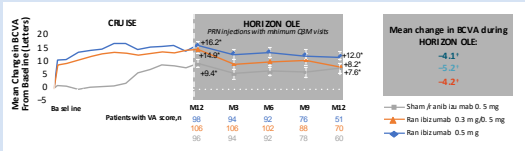
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## Vision Gains in RVO Clinical Trials Often Unsustained Over Longer Term

- Patients with CRVO experienced significant vision loss in the HORIZONOLE study
- Patients with CRVO who completed the CRUISE trial (12-mo phase III trial to assess the efficacy and safety of ranibizumab injections) were enrolled in the HORIZON OLE study
  - In HORIZON, the long-term safety and efficacy of ranibizumab were assessed for an additional 12 mo



\*Values relative to CRUISE baseline. †Values relative to HORIZON baseline. Vertical bars = ± 1 S.E. of the mean. Adapted from Heier, Ophthalmology. 2022;131:302 with permission from Elsevier

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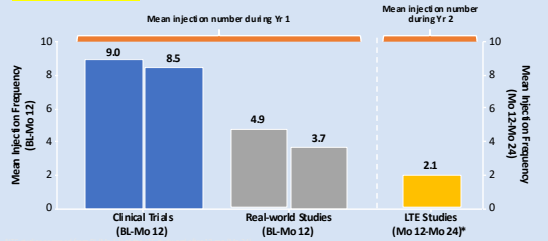
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## Patients With BRVO in LTE and Real-world Studies Received Fewer Mean Injections Over 12 Mo Than Those in Clinical Trials



Bhaskar, Invest Ophthalmol, Vis Sci. 2020;61:1304

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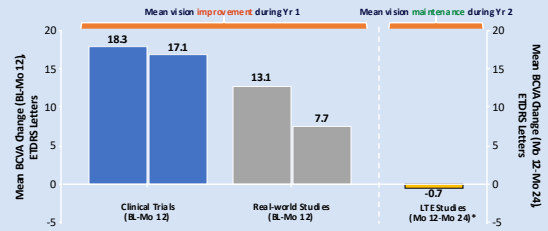
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## Patients With BRVO in Real-world Studies Achieved Smaller Gains Than in Clinical Trials, While Patients Maintained the Initial Vision Gains Achieved in Clinical Trials During LTE Studies



Bhaskar, Invest Ophthalmol, Vis Sci. 2020;61:1304

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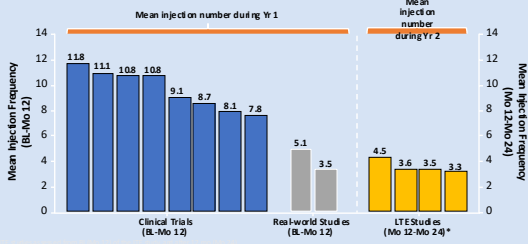
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**Patients With CRVO in LTE and Real-world Studies Received Fewer Mean Injections Over 12 Mo Than Those in Clinical Trials**



Bhisvul, Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. 2020;61:1304.

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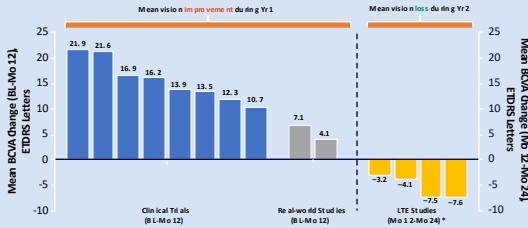
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**Patients With CRVO in Real-world Studies Achieved Smaller Gains Than in Clinical Trials, While Patients Did Not Maintain the Initial Vision Gains Achieved in Clinical Trials During LTE Studies**



Bhisvul, Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. 2020;61:1304.

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**CRVO Case Study**

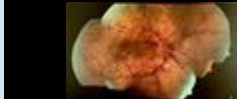
29 May 2012

59-yr-old woman

- Decreased vision for 1 wk in right eye 2/14/12
- Laf eyes 2/22/12
- No PMhx
- No APD
- BP 9/14
- No NVI
- Tx NSOU
- Otherwise, normal slit-lamp examination

Laboratory workup

- Elevated homocysteine and ATIII
- Patient referred to cardiology
- ASA 81 mg daily started



Retroillumination photograph




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### CRVO Case Study

16 November 2012  
Patient switched to aflibercept

Status after ranibizumab x 5:  
Visit on 20/200



Status after aflibercept x 1:  
Visit on 20/250



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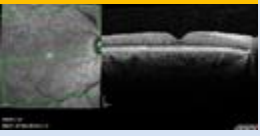
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### CRVO Case Study


8 February 2013  
Aflibercept (4th injection)

Status after aflibercept x 3:  
Visit on 20/20 and patient returned to 6-wk interval



22 March 2013

Visit on decrease to 20/80 and recurrent edema  
Aflibercept re-injected



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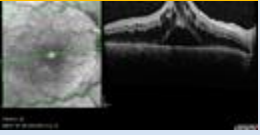
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### CRVO Case Study

26 July 2013

- Patient unable to extend past 5 wk (had been coming monthly since May 2012)
- Visit on drop of 20/40 from the previous mo to 20/80
- Aflibercept @ 20 wk interval from this date; edema with a severe intravitreal implant 2 wk later



25 October 2013

- The patient still had edema but was tired of continuous injections and refused treatment on this occasion

8 November 2013

- After dexamethasone intravitreal implant, edema improved, but new nerve swelling with increased vascular tortuosity and more dot hemorrhages
- Now with presumed ischemic CRVO
- Aflibercept x 3 injected
- Patient returned 22 Nov 2013 for repeat FA followed by PRP

**Ongoing treatment**

- Multiple dexamethasone intravitreal implant injections
- More aflibercept injections
- PRP
- Cataract surgery

• Patient could no longer keep up with appointments  
 • Patient burned after a propretments every 4-6 wk for 3 yr  
 • Memory loss at CRVO with atrophic edema

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### Recent/Ongoing Clinical Trials in RVO

- KSI-301 (tarocimab tedromer)
  - BEACON phase III trial in BRVO/CRVO
  - Study met the primary endpoint, but tarocimab development is discontinued
- Faricimab
  - COMINO phase III trial in HRVO/CRVO
  - BALATON phase III trial in BRVO
    - approved for use in RVO
- Aflibercept 8 mg (vs Aflibercept 2 mg) for CRVO/BRVO
  - QUASAR study
  - Finished enrolling and recently met primary endpoint

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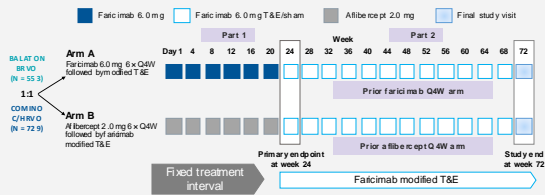
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### Phase 3 Study Design (BALATON, N = 553; COMINO, N = 729)

**Population:** Age ≥ 18 years, treatment-naïve macular edema due to RVO/BCVA 73 to 19 letters (20/40 to 20/400)  
**Primary endpoint:** Change from baseline in BCVA at week 24




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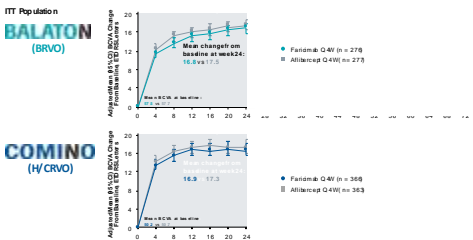
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### Change in BCVA Over Time: Robust BCVA Gains at Week 24, Comparable Between Treatment Arms




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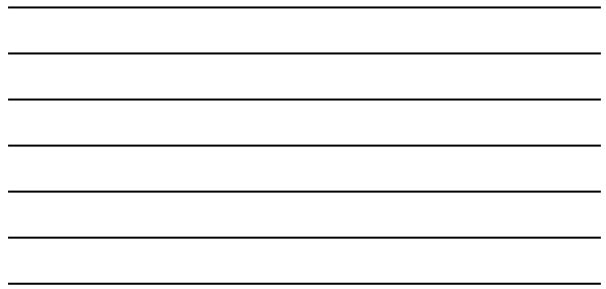
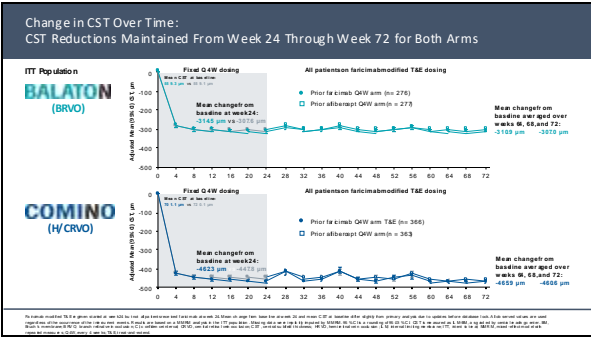
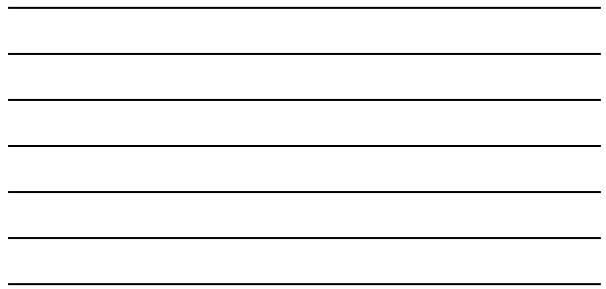
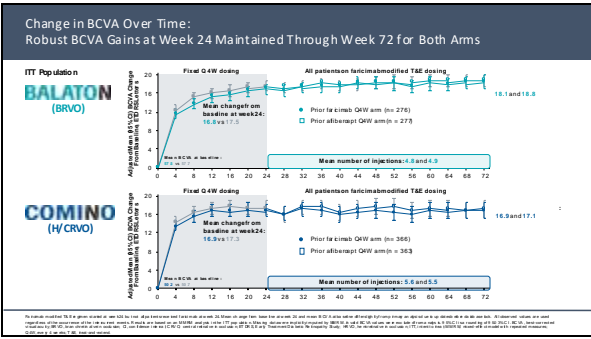
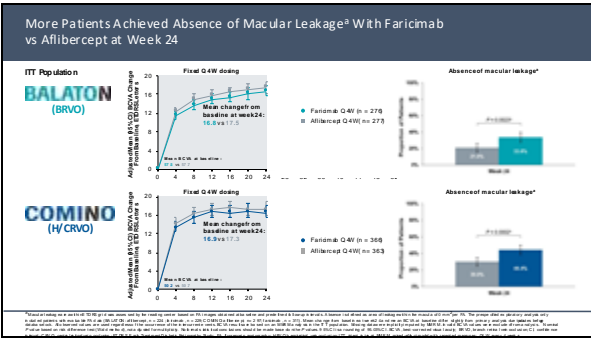
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# BRVO Switch Case

Carl J. Danzig, M.D.  
Director of Retina Clinical Research  
Rand Eye Institute  
Deerfield Beach, FL

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## BRVO Initial presentation

		Left eye	
Age	68	Diagnosed with RVO: 4 Jan 2019	Baseline BCVA: 20/60
Gender	male		
Race	Afro-Caribbean		
Date of diagnosis	1/4/2019		
BCVA	OD:HM OS:20/60		
IOP	13 OU		
Previous Ocular History	1) Adv. Glaucoma OD>OS s/p SLT OU 2) Caprct ou Latanoprost, Timolol		
Meds			

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## RVO in left eye

Baseline 4 Jan 2019	23 March 2020
BCVA 20/60 CST 547 µm Treatment Naïve Treated with Bevacizumab #1	BCVA 20/40

Bevadzumab x10

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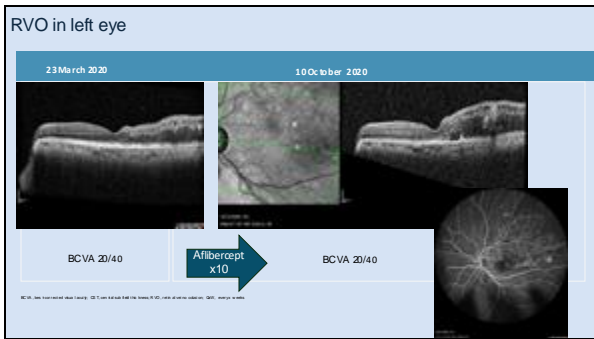
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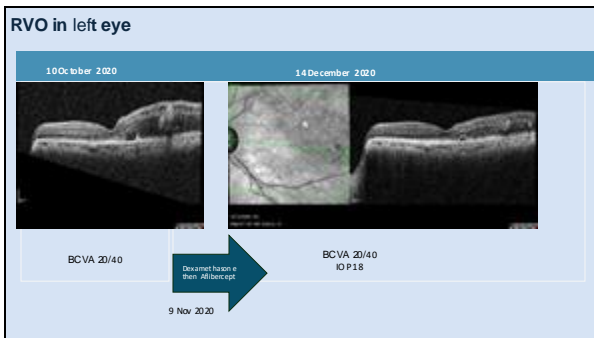
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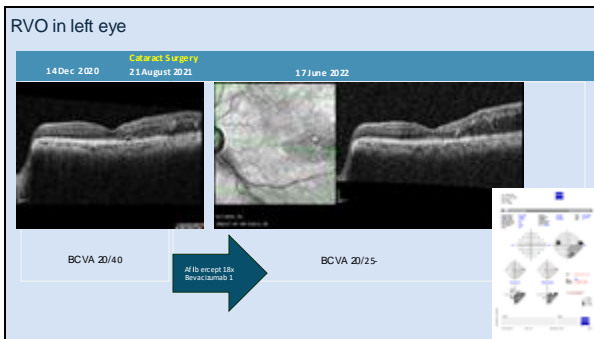
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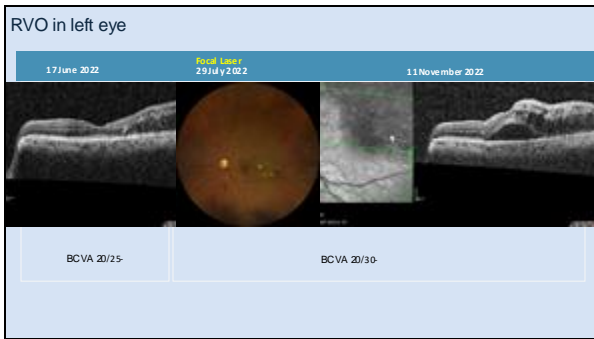
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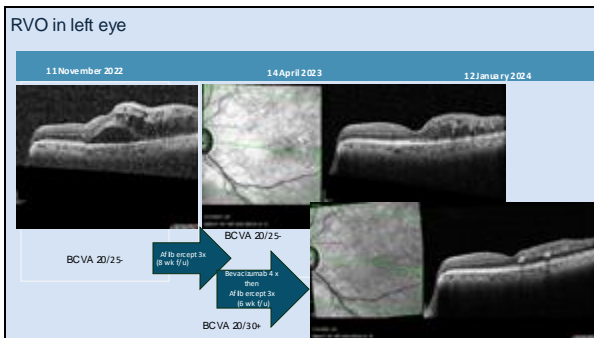
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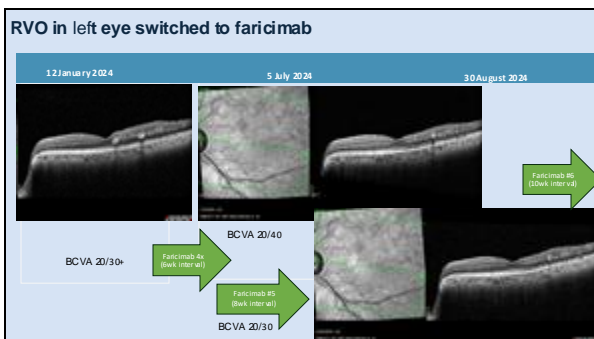
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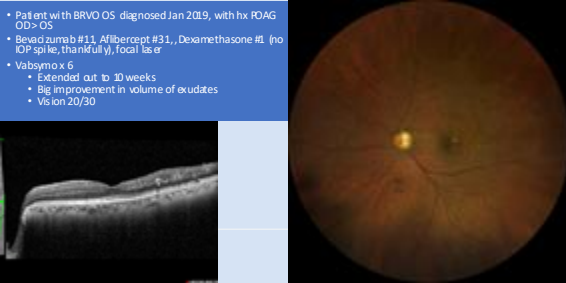
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**Case Summary: RVO in left eye treated with faricimab**

- Patient with BRVO OS diagnosed Jan 2019, with hx POAG OD>OS
- Bevacizumab #11, Afibercept #31, Dexamethasone # (no OP spike, thankfully), local laser
- Vabismo x 6
  - Extended out to 30 weeks
  - Big improvement in volume of exudates
  - Vision 20/30



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**Summary**

- Anti-VEGF agents have become first-line therapy for ME following RVO
  - Delays in treatment initiation may negatively impact vision prognosis
  - Personalize care to individual patient response to treatment
- Monthly dosing of anti-VEGF has been the most extensively studied regimen; however, data suggest that individualized treatment regimens may lead to comparable outcomes
- Steroids are effective for ME following RVO, but adverse effects of cataract and IOP elevation must be considered
- Peripheral laser photocoagulation does not improve vision outcomes or decrease anti-VEGF burden in ME following RVO

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**Thank you!**



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# Ixoberogene Soroparvec (Ixo-vec) Intravitreal Gene Therapy For Neovascular AMD: 52-Week Primary Efficacy and Safety Results From The Phase 2 LUNA Study

Michael Singer, M.D., PhD

On behalf of the LUNA Investigators and Study Team

New Orleans Ophthalmology Society - Sunday, February 23, 2025

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- This presentation discussed IRB/IEC approved research of an investigational medicine
- Studies funded by Adverum
- Michael Singer has the following financial interests or relationships to disclose:
  - saipjs
  - C=Core Unitant | R=Research Support| O=Stock Options

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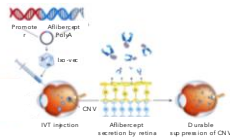
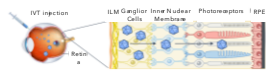
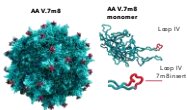
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- AAV7m8: Created by Directed Evolution**
- Engineered for IVT administration; peptide loop enables 7 m8 to cross the inner limiting membrane (ILM)
  - AAV7m8 delivers a fibrocyte to the retina
  - AAV7m8 for IVT Gene Therapy
  - Validated in 3 clinical programs
  - Published in peer reviewed journals

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### Barriers to Treatment

Needle Anxiety

Comorbidities

**Missed Injections**

Life Events

Lack of Transportation

### More Durable Treatment Options Are Needed

ASRS in a Survey: Unmet Needs in Treating Wet AMD and DME

Need	Percentage
Greater Durability	74%
Improved Vision	65%
Longer VEGF Suppression	54%
Stable Anatomy	44%

Ixo-vec: designed to address unmet need in wetAMD by delivering stable aflibercept

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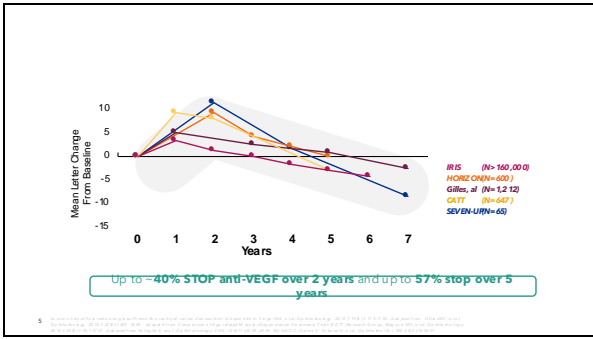
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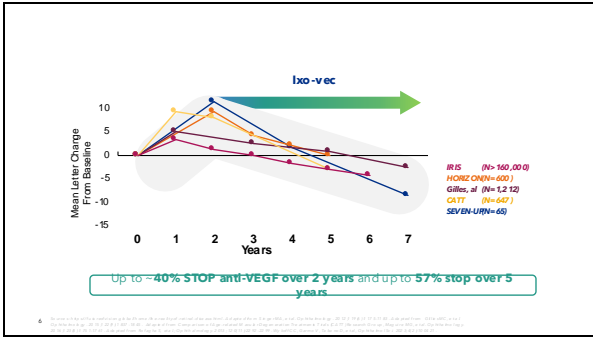
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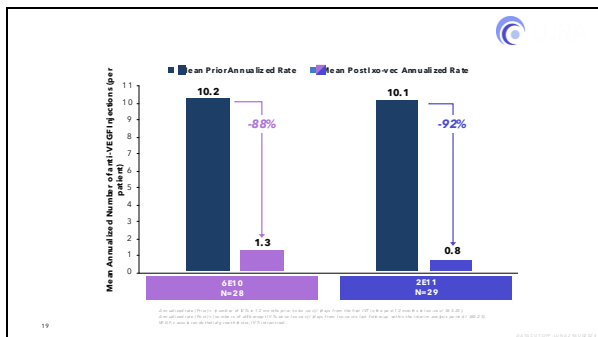













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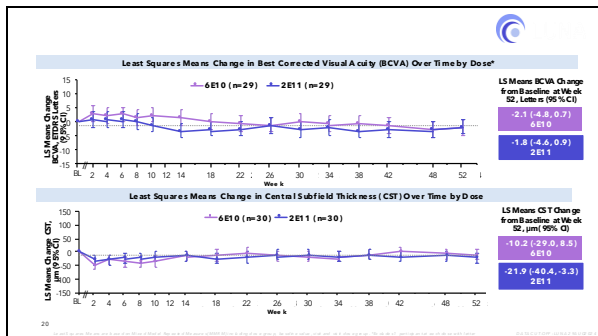
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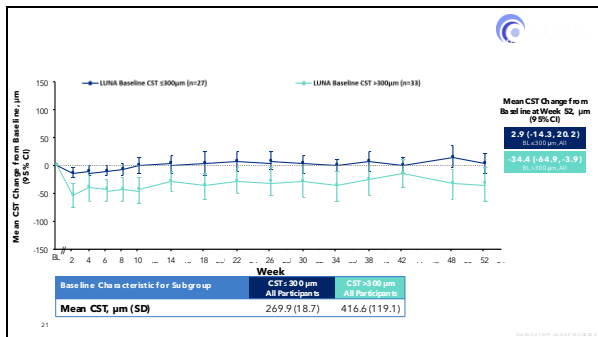
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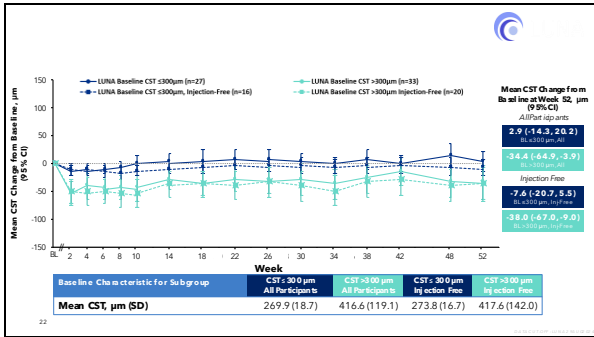
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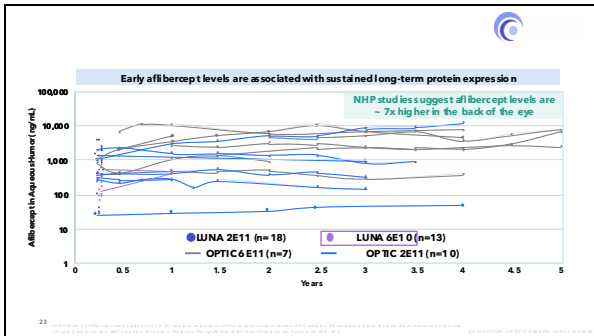
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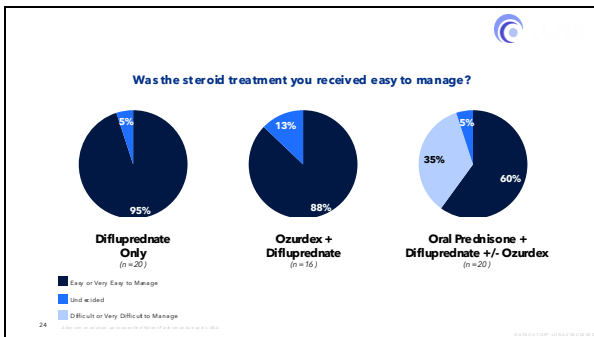
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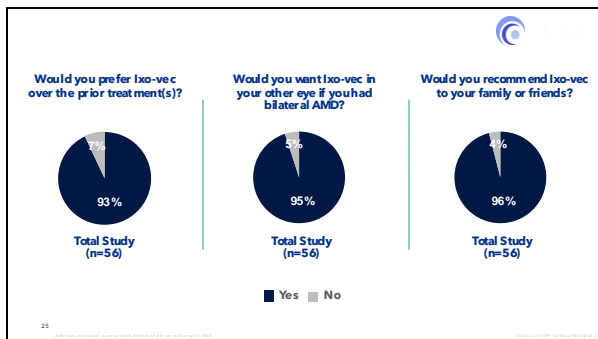
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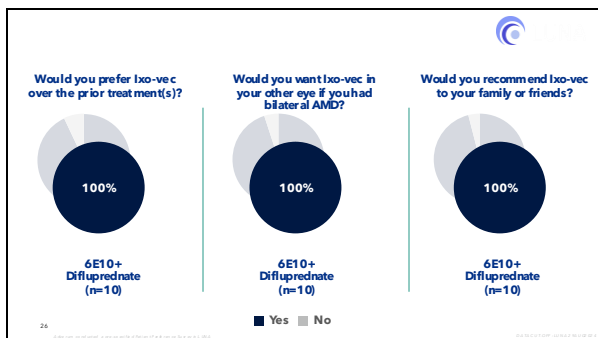
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**Favorable safety profile, well tolerated**

- No Ixo-vec-related serious adverse events. All Ixo-vec-related adverse events (AEs) were either mild or moderate
  - No episcleritis, vasculitis, retinitis, chorioiditis, vascular occlusion, or hypotony
- Most common Ixo-vec-related AEs were dose-dependent anterior inflammation responsive to local corticosteroid and anterior pigmentary changes with no impact on vision
- 6E10 patients had no inflammation at week 52 and at any subsequent visit

**Local corticosteroids alone effectively minimized inflammation at both doses**

- No patients had inflammation at week 52 and at any subsequent visit

**6E10+ topical steroid eye drops selected for pivotal program**

- No patients had inflammation at week 52 and at any subsequent visit
- Only a single patient had inflammation at any time point, which resolved prior to week 52

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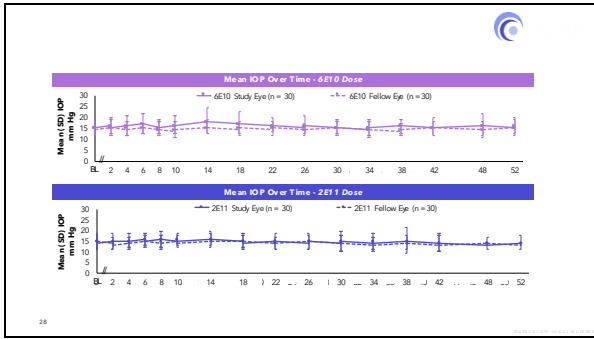
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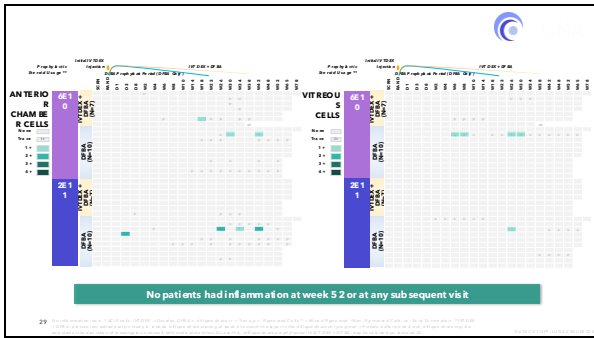
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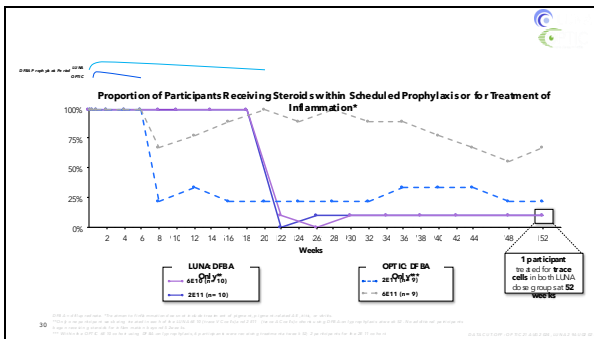
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**Efficacy**

**OPTIC**

**Durable clinical benefit through 4 years**

- >50% injection free & >80% treatment burden reduction
- BCVA & CSTI levels maintain ed
- Sustained aqueous aflibercept levels

**LUNA**

**>50% injection free & >80% treatment burden reduction in hard-to-treat patients**

**Consistent visual and anatomic benefit through 52 weeks**

- BCVA maintenance through 52 weeks
- Fluid reduction in patients with baseline CST >300 µm; maintenance in <300 µm

**Consistent fibroblast expression levels, similar to OPTIC**

**LUNA patient survey demonstrates strong patient preference for lo-vec**

- >93% prefer lo-vec over prior anti-VEGFs, would recommend it to family and friends

**Safety**

**2E11 was generally well tolerated through 4 years of followup**

- Inflammation was dose dependent, did not impact vision and, when present, was responsive to local corticosteroids
- 100% in inflammation resolved by year 1

**Favorable safety profile, well tolerated**

- No lo-vec related serious adverse events. Most common lo-vec related AEs were dose dependent anterior inflammation responsive to local corticosteroid and anterior pigmentary changes with no impact on vision

**Local corticosteroids alone effectively minimized inflammation at both doses**

- No patients had inflammation at week 52 and at any subsequent visit

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**ARTEMIS Phase 3 Trial**      **6E10** With steroid eye drop prophylaxis      **US Study** Incorporates FDA EOP2 feedback      **Broad** Patient population      **284** Patients

**Key Inclusion Criteria**  
 Treatment-naïve and previously treated wet AMD | **BCVA:** 35 - 78 letters | **Anti-VEGF responsive:** After two aflibercept loading doses

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Pema Abraham, MD	Paul Hahn, MD, PhD	Sunil Patel, MD, PhD
Sean Adrean, MD	Vivienne Hau, PhD	Dante Fleamig, MD
Benjamin Bakali, MD, PhD	Michael Ip, MD	Carl Regillo, MD
Mark Barakat, MD	Atul Jain, MD	Veeal Sheh, MD
David Boyer, MD	Cameron Javid, MD	Michael Singer, MD
Brandon Busbee, MD	Chirag Jhaveri, MD	Benjamin Thomas, MD
Jorge Calzada, MD	Brian Joondeph, MD	Eduardo Uchijima, MD
Nauman Chaudhry, MD	Arshad Kharani, MD	John Wells III, MD
Carl Danzig, MD	Gregg Kokame, MD	Jeremy Wolfe, MD
Victor Gonzalez, MD	Xihui Lin, MD	Charles Wyckoff, MD, PhD
Amir Gueami, MD	James Major, MD, PhD	Steven Yeh, MD
		Glenn Yiu, MD, PhD

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## Early Onset Improvement of Best-Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) and Central Subfield Thickness (CST) with OCS-01 Eye Drops in Diabetic Macular Edema (DME): Results from a 12-week Phase 2/3 Study (Stage 1)

Carl J. Danzig, MD  
Rand Eye Institute

on behalf of the DIAMOND study group

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### Disclosures

- 1) Research Grant: Adverum, Alexion, Annexon, Avizoda, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cognifon, Curacle, Eyebio, Eyepoint, 4DMT, Genentech, Gyroscope, IvericBio/Astellas, Kodak, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutix, Oculis, Regeneron, RegenxBio, Rezolute, Roche, Stealth, Unity
- 2) Consultant: Abbvie, Adverum, Alimera, Eyebio, 4DMT, Eyepoint, Galmedix, Genentech, IvericBio/Astellas, Kodak, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutix, Oculis, Ocuphire, Opthea, Regeneron, RegenxBio, Roche, Samsung Bioepis, Stealth, Unity
- 3) Speaker: Genentech, IvericBio/Astellas

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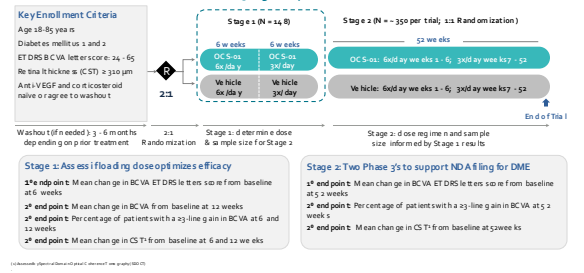
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### OCS-01 | DIAMOND (DX-219) Evaluated OCS-01 in Patients With DME Multicenter, randomized, double-masked, vehicle-controlled, two-stage phase 2/3 study of OCS-01 (OPTIREACH®-dexamethasone 15 mg/mL ophthalmic formulation)




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**Baseline Demographics Were Well-Balanced Between the 2 Arms**  
 Study DX 219 (Stage 1) ITT Population

Parameter	OCS-01 (n =100)	Vehicle (n=48)
Age, mean (SD), years	61.9 (9.0)	63.9 (7.3)
Male, n (%)	53 (52.0)	26 (54.2)
Duration of DME, mean (SD), years	2.0 (2.6)	1.9 (2.7)
BCVA, mean (SD), ETDRS letter score	57.5 (9.3)	58.3 (7.5)
CST, mean (SD), μm	453.0 (131.8)	445.3 (112.5)
IOP, mean (SD), mm Hg	15.3 (3.0)	14.7 (3.0)

BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; CST, central corneal thickness; DME, diabetic macular edema; IOP, intraocular pressure; SD, standard deviation; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; Hg, mercury.

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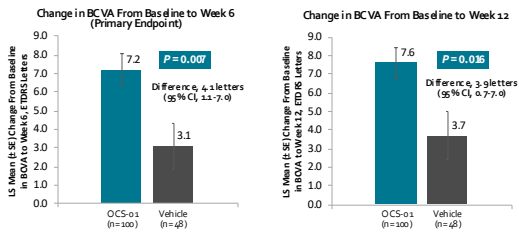
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**Patients on OCS-01 Had a Significant Improvement in Mean BCVA from Baseline at Weeks 6 and 12 vs Vehicle**  
 ITT population



Imputation via multiple imputation by chained equations in a full-information maximum likelihood approach. BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; CI, confidence interval; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; ITT, intention-to-treat; LS, least squares; SE, standard error.

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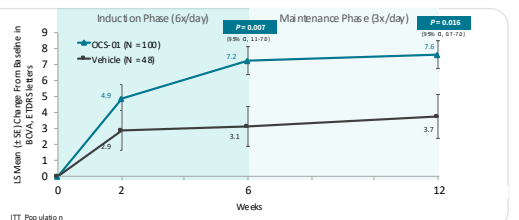
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**Improvement in Vision with OCS-01 Sustained to Week 12**  
 Rapid improvement in BCVA with induction and sustained with maintenance regimen



BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; ITT, intention-to-treat; SE, standard deviation; SE, standard error. Multiple imputation for missing data. Imputation via multiple imputation by chained equations in a full-information maximum likelihood approach. Data analysis conclusions are preliminary and subject to changes in final analysis & ongoing.

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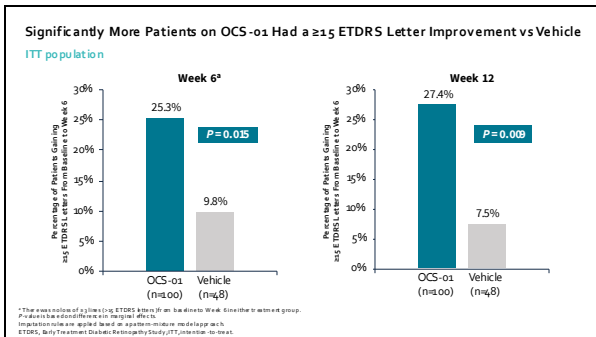
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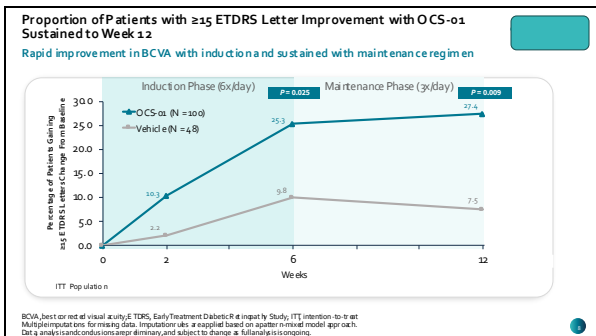
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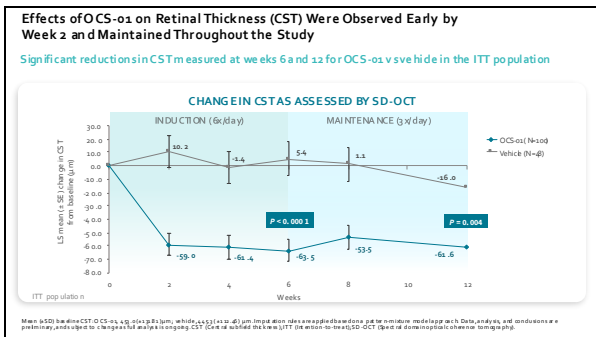
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### OCS-01 Was Well-tolerated With No Unexpected AEs

Safety population

#### Treatment Emergent Adverse Events

System Organ Class	OCS-01 (n=100) n (%)	Vehicle (n=48) n (%)
Any TEAE	70 (70.0)	30 (62.5)
Diabetic macular edema	10 (10.0)	9 (18.8)
Intraocular pressure increased	1 (1.0)	1 (2.1)
Hypertension	1 (1.0)	1 (2.1)
Ocular hypertension	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)
Macular edema	2 (2.0)	4 (8.3)
COVID-19	2 (2.0)	2 (4.2)
Dry eye	3 (3.0)	1 (2.1)
Diabetes mellitus	3 (3.0)	0 (0.0)
Dizziness	3 (3.0)	0 (0.0)
Dryness	3 (3.0)	0 (0.0)
Dioplasia	3 (3.0)	0 (0.0)
Nasopharyngitis	2 (2.0)	1 (2.1)
Type 2 diabetes	2 (2.0)	1 (2.1)
Vitreous hemorrhage	2 (2.0)	1 (2.1)
Artralgia	2 (2.0)	0 (0.0)
Blood glucose increased	2 (2.0)	0 (0.0)
Blood sugar reduced	1 (1.0)	2 (4.2)

#### Treatment Emergent Serious Adverse Events

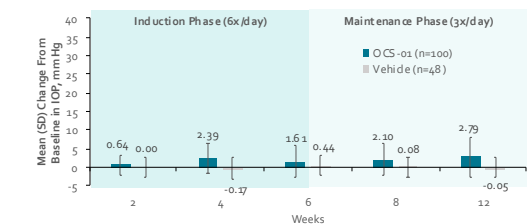
System Organ Class	OCS-01 (n=100) n (%)	Vehicle (n=48) n (%)
Any ocular SAE	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)
Vitreous hemorrhage	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)
Any non-ocular SAE	4 (4.0)	3 (6.3)
Death	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)

- None of the SAEs reported were deemed related to study drug
- No evidence of cataract formation up to 12 weeks
- IOP increase consistent with literature
- Minimal mean IOP increase was similar across loading and maintenance phases

AE, adverse event; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; DME, diabetic macular edema; SAE, serious adverse event; TEAE, treatment emergent adverse event

### Mean Change in IOP Over Time

Safety population



Mean (SD) baseline IOP, OCS-01 (n=100) (mmHg); vehicle (n=48) (mmHg); IOP, intraocular pressure; SD, standard deviation

### OCS-01 Holds the Potential to Address the Current Unmet Need by Providing a Versatile Efficacious, Safe and Non-invasive Therapeutic Approach for DME

Rapid and sustained improvement with OCS-01 Eye Drops observed by week 2 through week 12

OCS-01 met all Functional, Clinical and pharmacodynamic endpoints in a robust, statistically superior manner

- **Functional Endpoint:** Improvement of visual acuity
- **Clinical Endpoint:** Increase in proportion of patients with a 3-line or greater gain
- **Pharmacodynamic Endpoint:** Reduction in macular edema as measured by OCT

No unexpected safety findings were observed

Based on the results of Stage 1 of (Study DX-219; DIAMOND 1), Stage 2 is currently ongoing

BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; DME, diabetic macular edema