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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) therapy is the standard of care for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD). Aflibercept 2 mg (AFLI2) is widely used but requires frequent administration, imposing a substantial treatment burden. The newer aflibercept 8 mg (AFLI8) formulation offers the potential to extend dosing intervals while maintaining therapeutic efficacy.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To analyse different aflibercept treatment schemes in patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and compare their efficiency.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study design

- Retrospective observational study
- Tertiary hospital
- January-September 2025
- Patients were grouped according to treatment scheme:
 - (1) Aflibercept 2 mg (AFLI2)
 - (2) Aflibercept 8 mg (AFLI8-naïve)
 - (3) Transitioned from AFLI2 to AFLI8 (AFLI2+AFLI8)

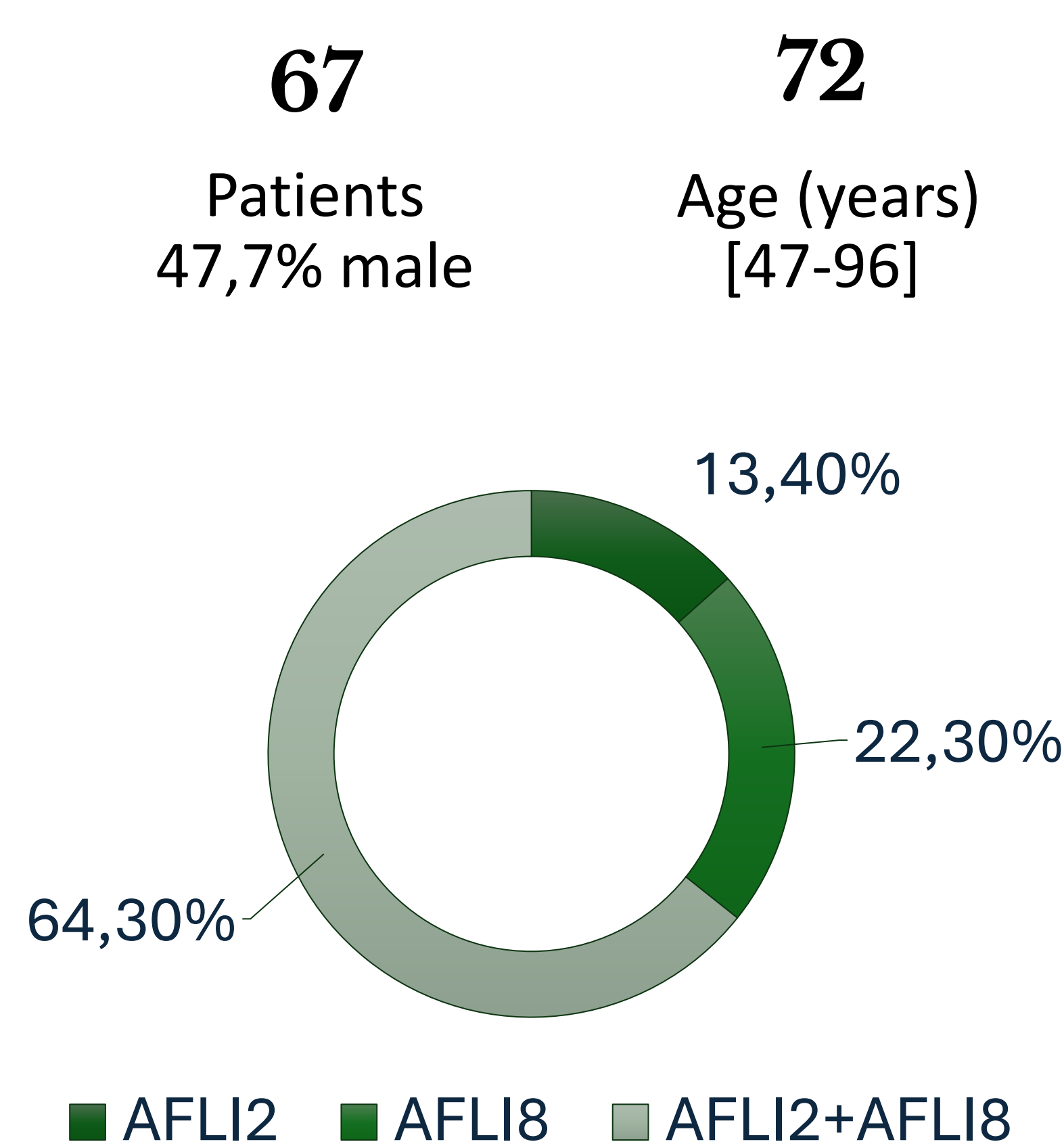
Data

- Demographic characteristics
- Treatment intervals
- Number of injections
- Acquisition costs.

DATA ANALYSIS

- Descriptive statistics

RESULTS



AFLI2

- All received three monthly loading doses followed by 8-week intervals.
- Median injections: 6 (2–6).
- Mean cost: €1.537.

AFLI8

- All received loading doses; 46,6% followed a treat-and-extend (26,6%-12 weeks, 20%-10 weeks).
- Median injections: 3 (2–4)
- Mean cost: €864.

AFLI2+AFLI8

- Induction phase: 67,4%; 44,9% followed treat-and-extend (24,3%-10 weeks, 20,6%-12 weeks).
- 32,6% had no loading doses, with intervals of 14 (38,5%), 10 (30,8%), or 8 (30,7%) weeks.
- Median injections: 3 (2–5).
- Mean cost: €810.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

AFLI8 reduced injection frequency and mean treatment cost per patient compared with AFLI2, enabling longer treatment intervals through treat-and-extend regimens. These findings indicate that AFLI8 is an efficient therapeutic alternative, optimising healthcare resources and potentially enhancing patient quality of life. These real-world findings align with the results of the pivotal PULSAR trial¹.

REFERENCES AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Lanzetta P, Korobelnik JF, Heier JS, Leal S, Holz FG, Clark WL, et al. Intravitreal aflibercept 8 mg in neovascular age-related macular degeneration (PULSAR): 48-week results from a randomised, double-masked, non-inferiority, phase 3 trial. *Lancet*. 2024 Mar 23;403(10432):1141-1152. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00063-1.

