

NUMBER OF ANNUAL INJECTIONS WITH RANIBIZUMAB OR AFLIBERCEPT IN TREATING NEOVASCULAR AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (nAMD). A COMPARISON USING REAL WORLD DATA

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

- The standard treatment for nAMD involves anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) drugs such as ranibizumab and aflibercept.
- The fixed-interval injection regimens represent a significant burden for ophthalmology services and patients. For this reason, the treat and extend (T&E) regimen was introduced, involving fixed doses until disease remission occurs, after which the treatment interval is gradually extended until neovascular activity reappears.
- One prospective randomized clinical trial compared aflibercept and ranibizumab regarding the number of injections in twelve months in patients with nAMD treated with a T&E approach (1). No difference was found in this outcome.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- To acknowledge the distribution of aflibercept and ranibizumab among patients treated at our hospital for nAMD and compare the number of injections in twelve months of treatment between both drugs.
- To compare this data with the number of injections reported in the twelve-month clinical trial (1).



MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Observational retrospective study from May 2023 to June 2024.
- **Inclusion:**
 - Patients with nAMD treated with a single drug (ranibizumab or aflibercept)
 - Patients were receiving an injection at least 11 months (330 days) before June 2024 and another during the last six months (180 days).
- **Primary Outcome:** number of injections in twelve months of treatment.
- Data were retrieved from pharmacy dispensation records.



RESULTS

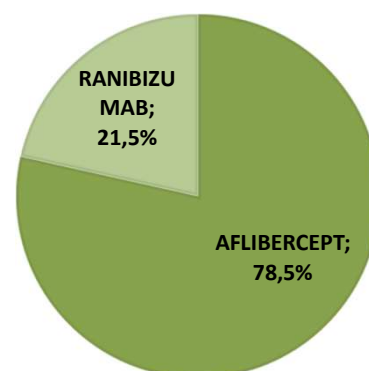
121 patients included
(median: 80 years; interquartile 25-75%: 74-89 years)

MEAN NUMBER OF INJECTIONS PER YEAR

AFLIBERCEPT	RANIBIZUMAB
5,00±1,4	4,85±1,16
No differences between drugs (p=0,616, t-test for unpaired samples)	
Gillies et al.: 9,7±2,6 and 9,7±2,8, respectively	

All were treated using the T&E approach.

anti-VEGF for nAMD treatment



CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- ❖ In our hospital, aflibercept is used four times more than ranibizumab as a single anti-VEGF drug
- ❖ No significant difference between drugs was found in the mean number of injections in twelve months
- ❖ The mean number of injections was inferior to the corresponding data previously reported by Gillies et al.

References: ¹Gillies MC et al. Effect of Ranibizumab and Aflibercept on Best-Corrected Visual Acuity in Treat-and-Extend for Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration: A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2019;137(4):372-379

Disclosure: None of the authors of this study have to disclose any possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this study.
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