

Early Detection Of CNV Results In A Better Visual Outcome

Most CNV lesions resulting from AMD at presentation to an ophthalmologist are subfoveal, relatively large and associated with relatively poor visual acuity¹.

Because of the recent introduction of new and better treatments for neovascular AMD, a significant improvement in visual outcomes can be achieved. Early detection of conversion leads to early initiation of treatment, which in turn leads to better visual acuity.

Currently, the most commonly used therapy for CNV is intravitreal injection of anti-VEGF agents such as Ranibizumab or Bevacizumab. Though anti-VEGF therapy prevents moderate vision loss from presenting levels of acuity at time of CNV detection in more than 90% of neovascular AMD cases, visual acuity is improved in only 35%- 40%^{2, 3}, suggesting that in

the majority of cases treatment is initiated when vision has already been irreversibly damaged. The MARINA and ANCHOR studies have demonstrated that in terms of the absolute final level of visual acuity following long-term treatment (defined as 24 months), greater benefits of therapy are achieved if CNV is detected earlier, when presenting level of visual acuity is higher and CNV lesion is smaller and extrafoveal^{4,5}.

These observations emphasize the need for frequent monitoring of intermediate AMD patients to foster early detection of conversion to neovascular AMD.

"...for an average patient, earlier detection means a significant gain of vision, which may be equivalent to or better than the gain we achieve with most CNV treatments. The bottom line is that the impact of the earlier detection on vision is enormous."⁶

Key facts on AMD

- AMD is the Leading cause of blindness among people over the age of 65
- There are more than 8 millions AMD patients
- The risk of getting age-related macular degeneration increases from 2% for those ages 50-59, to nearly 30% for those over the age of 75
- 7 Millions are intermediate AMD patients of which 15% - 18% will progress to advanced AMD within 5 years
- In 2000 1.75 million Americans experienced advanced stages of AMD (CNV)

National Eye Institute, Age Related Macular Degeneration Facts

Potential Impact of Early Detection (based on Sub-analysis MARINA and ANCHOR)

References:

- ¹ Olsen et al., Fluorescein Angiographic Lesion Type Frequency in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Ophthalmology 2004; 111:250-255.
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- ⁴ Kaiser PK, Brown DM, Zhang K et al. Ranibizumab for predominantly classic neovascular age-related macular degeneration: subgroup analysis of first-year ANCHOR results. Am J Ophthalmol 2007;144:850-857.
- ⁵ Boyer DS, Antoszyk AN, Awh CC, Bhisitkul RB, Shapiro H, Acharya NR. Subgroup analysis of the MARINA study of ranibizumab in neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Ophthalmology. 2007;114:246-52.
- ⁶ Loewenstein, The Significance of Early Detection of Age-Related Macular Degeneration, RETINA 2007; 27:873-878.

