Published in final edited form as:

Retina. 2019 April ; 39(4): 636–647. doi:10.1097/IAE.0000000000002124.

Effect of IOP-lowering medications on neovascular AMD treatment outcomes in the Comparison of AMD Treatment Trials (CATT)

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Abstract

Purpose—To evaluate the effect of intraocular pressure (IOP)-lowering medications on treatment outcomes in the Comparison of AMD Treatment Trials (CATT).

Methods—Secondary analysis of CATT data. Medication logs were reviewed for continuous 2-year use of agents that increased aqueous outflow (Group A: topical prostaglandins) or suppressed aqueous production (Group B: topical beta blockers, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors). Eyes were excluded if mixed-mechanism IOP-lowering agents or medications from more than one group were taken. Anatomical and vision responses to treatment at years 1, 2 and over the entire 2-year period in each group were compared to controls (no IOP-lowering medications).

Results—Inclusion criteria were met in 28 Group A patients, 19 Group B patients, and 857 controls. After 2 years, the control group had a mean VA improvement of +6.3 letters from baseline, compared to +3.5 letters in Group A ($P=0.38$), and +13.8 letters in Group B ($P=0.052$). Mean retinal thickness change from baseline was $-54.9\ \mu\text{m}$ in controls, $-80.6\ \mu\text{m}$ in Group A ($P=0.26$), and $-96.8\ \mu\text{m}$ in Group B ($P=0.13$). Mean total thickness change from baseline was $-163\ \mu\text{m}$ in controls, $-180\ \mu\text{m}$ in Group A ($P=0.63$), and $-238\ \mu\text{m}$ in Group B ($P=0.08$). In longitudinal analysis with adjustment by their baseline values, anti-VEGF treatment drug and regimen, Group B had more VA improvement (difference of 2.6 letters, 95% CI: -3.4 to 8.5 letters), more reduction in the retinal thickness ($-17.9\ \mu\text{m}$, 95% CI: -36.5 to $0.7\ \mu\text{m}$) and total thickness from baseline (mean difference of $-54.7\ \mu\text{m}$, 95% CI: -103 to $6.2\ \mu\text{m}$) compared to the control group.

Conclusions—Concurrent aqueous suppressant use during anti-VEGF therapy for neovascular AMD was associated with a trend towards greater reductions in retinal and total thickness as well

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Conflicts of Interest Disclosures: The authors do not have a proprietary interest in the presented material.

as improved visual outcomes over 2 years. A similar effect was not observed to the same extent with agents that increase aqueous outflow. Due to the small sample size and secondary analysis, these findings must be cautiously interpreted and perhaps serve as a basis for future prospective studies.

Keywords

Age-related macular degeneration; aqueous outflow; beta blockers; carbonic anhydrase inhibitors; choroidal neovascularization; dorzolamide; intraocular pressure; timolol

Introduction

The class of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors, including bevacizumab (Avastin; Genentech, South San Francisco, CA), ranibizumab (Lucentis; Genentech), and aflibercept (Eylea; Regeneron, Tarrytown, NY), has revolutionized the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and remains the standard-of-care in managing this disease.^{1–7} While ongoing therapy over many years is typically required, the treatment intervals can vary widely from patient to patient, raising interest in understanding this variability, including elucidating the mechanisms underlying the clearance of anti-VEGF agents within the eye.

Several studies have implicated aqueous outflow through the anterior chamber as contributing to the intraocular clearance of VEGF inhibitors.^{8–11} Suppressing aqueous humor production could reduce the aqueous outflow, which may in turn decrease drug clearance and thereby prolong the effect of intravitreally-administered pharmacotherapies.¹² This was supported in a recent pilot study, which demonstrated that adjuvant treatment with topical dorzolamide-timolol had a synergistic effect on reducing subretinal fluid (SRF) and central subfield thickness measurements in eyes with persistent exudation due to neovascular AMD despite consistent, fixed-interval anti-VEGF injection schedules.¹² These findings have led to increased interest in investigating the potential effects of additional intraocular pressure (IOP)-lowering medications on treatment outcomes in neovascular AMD.

The Comparison of AMD Treatments Trials (CATT) was a 2-year study that evaluated the efficacy of ranibizumab compared with bevacizumab, as well as monthly compared with as needed treatments in 1,185 patients,^{5,6} and provides an opportunity to perform an observational analysis comparing functional and anatomical outcomes from a subpopulation of patients simultaneously using IOP-lowering agents during the study period with controls.

Methods

Details of the CATT study design and methods have been previously published, and are available on ClinicalTrials.gov (identifier, NCT00593450).^{5,6} Only the major features related to this secondary data analysis are described here.

Study Participants

The institutional review board associated with each clinical center approved the study protocol, and informed consent was obtained from each participating patient. The inclusion

criteria were age ≥ 50 years, untreated active choroidal neovascularization (CNV) resulting from AMD in the study eye (1 eye per patient), and visual acuity (VA) between 20/25 and 20/320 on electronic VA testing.^{5,6} Determination of active CNV required both leakage of dye on fluorescein angiography and the presence of fluid (intraretinal [IRF], SRF, or sub-retinal pigment epithelium [RPE]) on time-domain OCT.

Patients were enrolled from 43 clinical centers in the United States and randomized to 1 of 4 treatment groups at baseline: (1) ranibizumab monthly, (2) bevacizumab monthly, (3) ranibizumab as needed (pro re nata [PRN]), or (4) bevacizumab PRN. At the end of year 1, patients initially assigned to monthly treatment retained their original drug assignment but were reassigned randomly to either monthly or PRN treatment. Patients initially assigned to PRN treatment retained both their same drug and regimen for year 2.

Study Procedures

During the initial visit, patients provided information regarding demographic characteristics and medical history. Stereoscopic color fundus photography and fluorescein angiography were obtained by certified photographers at baseline, year 1, and year 2. Certified technicians obtained optical coherence tomography (OCT) images from the study eye patients assigned to PRN treatment every 4 weeks and of all participants at baseline, weeks 4, 8, 12, 24, 52 (year 1), 76, and 104 (year 2). All the OCT images taken from the first year were time-domain optical coherence tomography (TD-OCT), whereas approximately 23% of OCT images in the second year were spectral-domain OCT (SD-OCT).⁶ Both photographic and OCT images were evaluated at the associated CATT reading centers using standardized protocols. Details regarding study site image acquisition and reading center grading have been previously described.^{13,14}

At baseline and follow-up at weeks 4, 12, 24, 36, 52 (year 1), 64, 76, 88, and 104 (year 2), certified VA examiners, masked to the treatment assignment, measured VA after refraction in both eyes using the Electronic Visual Acuity Tester following the protocol used in the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network.¹⁵ The VA was also measured, but without refraction, at other follow-up visits, which occurred every 4 weeks after enrollment. The VA scores from the Electronic Visual Acuity Tester range from 0 to 100, corresponding to Snellen equivalents of worse than 20/800 to 20/10. At baseline and follow-up visits, the participants were interviewed by the study coordinator about the dose, frequency, and the dates of use of all systemic and topical medications, including IOP-lowering medications.

Statistical Analysis

The medication logs of all study participants were reviewed for concurrent use of IOP-lowering agents, which were sub-classified based on the underlying mechanism of action: increased outflow of aqueous humor (Group A), or decreased aqueous humor production (Group B) (Table 1). For inclusion into either group, only eyes continuously receiving the corresponding medication for the entire 2-year treatment period were considered. To independently assess the effect of IOP-lowering agents in each group, any eyes using mixed mechanism drugs (i.e. brimonidine) or medications from more than one group (i.e. Group A and B) were excluded from analysis. The control group included all patients who never took

any IOP-lowering agents during the 2 years. A flow diagram of the study design is detailed in Figure 1.

Functional and anatomic outcomes at years 1 and 2 in each IOP-lowering group were compared with the control group using two-sample t-test or Wilcoxon rank sum test for continuous outcomes and Fisher exact test for categorical outcomes. For the comparison of VA and thickness between Groups A and B vs. controls, we also performed the multivariate analysis that adjusted by their baseline value, anti-VEGF treatment drug and regimen. In addition, to improve the statistical power for the comparisons between Group A and Group B patients vs. controls, we performed longitudinal analysis for treatment responses of VA and OCT thickness measures. In the longitudinal analyses, the VA change from baseline at weeks 4, 12, 24, 36, 52, 64, 76, 88 and 104 was simultaneously modeled as an outcome variable, and the predictor variables included time (as categorical variable), and the group indicator, their baseline value, anti-VEGF drug and regimen received in CATT. The linear mixed effect model was used to account for the correlations from longitudinal VA measures.^{16,17} Similar longitudinal analyses were performed for change in OCT thickness from baseline at weeks 4, 8, 12, 24, 52, 76 and 104.

Data for continuous variables were recorded as mean $\pm$ standard error (SE) unless otherwise specified. Statistical analyses were performed with SAS software version 9.4 (SAS Inc, Cary, NC), and 2-sided *P* values less than 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant.

Results

Inclusion criteria were met in 28 patients who took IOP-lowering agents that increased aqueous outflow (Group A) for 2 years and 19 patients who took IOP-lowering agents that decreased aqueous production (Group B) for 2 years, while 857 patients who never took IOP-lowering medications served as controls. Baseline characteristics of the three groups are outlined in Table 2. Compared to controls, Group A patients had a higher proportion with hypertension (89.3% vs. 67.7%, *P*=0.02) and a lower proportion with vitreomacular traction (0% vs. 14.0%, *P*=0.04). No significant differences in baseline characteristics were found between Group B patients and controls. Both groups had baseline VA similar to controls (*P*>0.20). Both groups also had similar distributions of anti-VEGF treatment drug and dosing regimen as controls (*P*>0.50, Table 2).

Visual & Anatomical Outcomes

After 2 years, mean ($\pm$ SE) VA improved $+6.3 \pm 0.6$ letters from baseline in the control group compared to $+3.5 \pm 3.9$ letters gain in Group A (*P*=0.38), and $+13.8 \pm 2.7$ letters gain in Group B (*P*=0.052, Table 3). The proportion of 3-line gainers at 2 years was 29.4% in the control group, 28.6% in Group A (*P*=0.92 vs. controls), and 47.4% in Group B (*P*=0.09 vs. controls, Table 3). After adjustment by their baseline values, anti-VEGF treatment drug and regimen, Group B had 6 more letters in VA gain (95% CI: -0.9 to 13.6 letters, *P*=0.09) compared to the control group (Table 4).

Mean change in retinal thickness from baseline to year 2 in the control group was $-54.9 \mu\text{m}$, compared to $-80.6 \mu\text{m}$ in Group A (*P*=0.26), and $-96.8 \mu\text{m}$ in Group B (*P*=0.13, Table 3).

Mean change in total thickness from baseline in the control group was $-162.5 \mu\text{m}$, compared to $-179.8 \mu\text{m}$ in Group A ($P=0.63$), and $-238.2 \mu\text{m}$ in Group B ($P=0.08$) after 2 years of therapy. After adjustment by their baseline value, anti-VEGF treatment drug and regimen, Group B's total thickness decreased $40 \mu\text{m}$ more (95% CI: -99 to $19 \mu\text{m}$, $P=0.19$) compared to control group (Table 4).

Similar functional and anatomical responses after 1 year of therapy are further outlined in a supplemental table.

Number of Injections in PRN Groups

The mean number of intravitreal anti-VEGF injections administered through 2 years in the PRN arms (either PRN through 2 years or monthly in year 1 switched over to PRN in year 2) was 15.7 in the control group, 16.7 in Group A ($P=0.50$ vs. controls), and 13.9 in Group B ($P=0.39$ vs. controls, Table 3).

Longitudinal Analysis

In multivariate longitudinal analysis (Table 4), the VA change from baseline over 2 years was $+6.8$ letters in controls, $+3.9$ letters in Group A, and $+9.4$ letters in Group B ($P=0.39$, Figure 2). The corresponding mean retinal thickness change from baseline was $-53.5 \mu\text{m}$ in controls vs. $-62.2 \mu\text{m}$ in Group A vs. $-71.4 \mu\text{m}$ in Group B ($P=0.06$, Figure 3), and mean total thickness change from baseline was $-156.6 \mu\text{m}$ vs. $-167.2 \mu\text{m}$ vs. $-211.3 \mu\text{m}$ in each of the three groups, respectively ($P=0.03$, Figure 4).

Discussion

Motivated by findings from a previous pilot study which suggested that topical aqueous suppressants (dorzolamide-timolol) in combination with anti-VEGF injections might help improve anatomical outcomes,¹² we evaluated the impact of concurrent use of IOP-lowering medication on treatment outcomes among CATT patients treated with ranibizumab or bevacizumab on a monthly or PRN basis for neovascular AMD. The findings from this secondary data analysis may suggest a potential added anatomical and functional benefit from aqueous suppressants, but not agents that increase aqueous outflow, over 2 years of anti-VEGF therapy. As the number of CATT participants taking aqueous suppressants for 2 years was small, these findings must be cautiously interpreted and perhaps serve as a basis for future prospective studies.

Any potential benefit of Group B agents on neovascular AMD treatment outcomes in CATT may be multifactorial. Most notably, by decreasing aqueous humor production by up to 50%,¹⁸ the outflow of fluid may be subsequently hindered, thereby prolonging the half-life of any intraocular VEGF inhibitor present. Although the exact mechanism by which intravitreal anti-VEGF agents are cleared is not completely understood, there is evidence that passage through the anterior chamber may play a role.⁸⁻¹¹ Gaudreault et al previously demonstrated that concentrations of ranibizumab in the aqueous humor after a single intravitreal injection, though much lower than in the vitreous, appear to decline in parallel with vitreous levels.¹¹ Two small, prospective studies evaluating the use of topical dorzolamide-timolol support this mechanism. In the first, Byeon et al demonstrated that in patients receiving a single

intravitreal bevacizumab injection for the treatment of macular edema secondary to branch or central retinal vein occlusion, the mean central subfield thickness was significantly lower after 5 weeks in eyes randomly assigned to receive topical dorzolamide-timolol drops compared to controls (no drops, $P=0.03$). However, by 9 weeks there was no longer a difference between the two groups, leading the authors to conclude that aqueous suppression may have delayed the clearance of bevacizumab.⁹ In the second study, Sridhar and Hsu selected patients with persistent exudation due to neovascular AMD despite chronic, fixed-interval anti-VEGF therapy. These patients were maintained on the same anti-VEGF medication and interval between injections; the only difference was the addition of topical dorzolamide-timolol.¹² Ten eyes of 10 patients completed the study protocol, and showed statistically significant reductions in mean central subfield thickness as well as maximum subretinal fluid height measurements at each of the four study visit time points. However, visual acuity did not improve significantly, which may have been due to either chronic exudation prior to addition of the drops or the relatively short study duration. It was proposed that if topical dorzolamide-timolol is given earlier in the course of anti-VEGF treatment for incomplete responders rather than for chronic, refractory disease, more functional benefit may be achieved. This appears to be corroborated by the current study's findings of significant VA gains in patients on concurrent aqueous suppression therapy during the initial 2 years of anti-VEGF treatment.

In addition to decreasing aqueous humor production, Group B agents (i.e. beta blockers or carbonic anhydrase inhibitors) may have had direct retinal effects, which contributed to the observed outcomes in this study. Previous investigations in a mouse model of oxygen-induced retinopathy have demonstrated that beta-adrenergic blockade reduced upregulation of the VEGF cascade and other pro-angiogenic factors while decreasing hypoxic retinopathy and retinal neovascularization.^{19–21} A separate mouse model of laser-induced CNV further showed that beta-adrenergic blockade attenuated CNV formation and reduced VEGF expression.²² Studies in humans investigating the effects of systemic beta-adrenergic blockade have thus far yielded conflicting results. A retrospective case series of 46 patients with neovascular AMD found that patients receiving oral beta blockers ($n=18$) were statistically more likely to receive fewer intravitreal injections of bevacizumab than their counterparts not taking the class of medication.²³ However, this positive effect was not corroborated by a recent study evaluating a large national insurance claims database, which found that use of oral beta blockers ($n=239$ patients) was not associated with a decreased number of intravitreal injections for individuals with neovascular AMD compared to those taking oral calcium channel blockers ($n=155$ patients).²⁴ Furthermore, findings from the Beaver Dam Eye Study revealed that oral beta blockers were associated with a 71% increased hazard of incident neovascular AMD.²⁵ Additionally, a separate retrospective series comparing 250 patients with neovascular AMD to 250 non-neovascular AMD controls demonstrated no difference in the rate of beta blocker usage between both groups, arguing against a protective effect from this class of medication in preventing CNV.²⁶ Whether administration of topical beta blockers may confer an added benefit by delivering greater concentrations of medication to the target tissue remains to be determined.

Dorzolamide, a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, has been used topically with some success to treat macular edema secondary to various conditions, including retinitis pigmentosa,^{27,28} X-

linked retinoschisis,²⁹ choroideremia,³⁰ and systemic taxane therapy.^{31,32} Inhibition of Müller and RPE cell carbonic anhydrase, may modulate Müller cell activity and RPE pump function, respectively, resulting in enhanced transfer of intraretinal and subretinal fluid to the choroid, thereby improving macular edema.^{33,34} In addition, topical dorzolamide may positively influence the local retinal microcirculation^{35,36} and improve choroidal perfusion as demonstrated in a placebo-controlled study of 36 patients with non-neovascular AMD.³⁷

If aqueous suppressants prolong the effect of intraocular VEGF inhibition, one may reasonably expect that eyes in CATT not receiving regular monthly injections (i.e. PRN through 2 years or monthly in year 1 switched over to PRN in year 2) would require fewer injections while on aqueous suppressants than controls. Although Group B required nominally fewer injections (13.9) after 2 years compared to controls (15.7), this difference was not statistically significant. That Group A required the greatest number of injections (16.7) during the study period, however, may further implicate aqueous humor outflow through the anterior chamber in the clearance of VEGF inhibitors from the eye, as medications that facilitate this pathway may increase medication clearance and shorten the effect duration. These findings suggest that, in the very least, patients with neovascular AMD requiring glaucoma therapy may benefit more from aqueous suppressant treatment than from drug therapy that increases aqueous outflow. Additional larger studies will be required to confirm this hypothesis.

There are several limitations to this secondary data analysis, including its retrospective nature and the relatively small sample size of patients taking only one class of IOP-lowering medications continuously during the study period. While we did not observe significant baseline differences in Group A and B patients compared to controls, the power for these comparisons is low due to limited sample sizes in each group; thus, the absence of a significant difference is not necessarily evidence of absence of a meaningful difference. Although we made numerous statistical comparisons for various morphological and functional outcomes, no corrections were made for multiple comparisons. Additionally, we are not able to determine whether the beneficial effect we observed from Group B medications can be generalized to this class, or whether it is directly attributable to a specific agent. Furthermore, we cannot exclude the potential confounding effect of underlying glaucoma to the visual outcomes observed in either Group A or B. Finally, patient compliance amongst those using IOP-lowering medications was dependent on self-reporting during CATT. However, a major strength of this study is that it included only eyes that were given IOP-lowering medication continuously throughout the entire 2-year period, and excluded those taking multiple medications from different classes so that we could assess drug effect not confounded by mixed drug classes.

In summary, concurrent use of aqueous suppressants during intravitreal anti-VEGF treatment for neovascular AMD may suggest a trend towards improved visual outcomes and possibly with greater reductions in retinal thickness and total thickness after 2 years in a secondary analysis of CATT data. A similar effect, however, was not observed to the same extent with agents that reduce IOP through increasing aqueous outflow. Due to the small sample size and the nature of secondary data analysis, these findings must be interpreted with caution. However, if these results are consistent in future prospective randomized

studies and/or secondary analyses of other similar clinical trials, combination therapy with aqueous suppressants in addition to anti-VEGF injections may improve outcomes in the treatment of neovascular AMD.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

Funding: NIH U10 EY017823, U10 EY017825, U10 EY017826, U10 EY017828 and R21EY023689

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Summary Statement

Concurrent use of aqueous suppressants during anti-VEGF therapy for neovascular AMD was associated with greater reductions in retinal thickness and improved visual outcomes over 2 years in CATT. These results should be confirmed by future prospective randomized studies.

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Figure 1.
Flowchart for study inclusion.

Figure 2. Mean visual acuity change from baseline ($\pm$ SE) over time for patients in Groups A, B, and matched controls.

Figure 3.
Mean retinal thickness change from baseline ($\pm$ SE) over time for patients in Groups A, B, and matched controls.

Figure 4. Mean total thickness change from baseline ($\pm$ SE) over time for patients in Groups A, B, and matched controls.

Table 1

The frequency of IOP-lowering medications use used in Group A and Group B patients

	Used throughout 2 Years
Glaucoma drugs	Patient (%)^a
Group A: increases aqueous outflow	28 (2.4%)
Pilocarpine	0 (0%)
Bimatoprost	5 (0%)
Latanoprost	18 (1.5%)
Travoprost	13 (1.1%)
Group B: aqueous suppressant	19 (1.6%)
Betaxolol	1 (0%)
Levobunolol	1 (0%)
Timolol maleate	10 (0.8%)
Dorzolamide HCL/Timolol maleate	8 (0.7%)
Dorzolamide HCL	2 (0%)
Brinzolamide	2 (0%)
Acetazolamide	1 (0%)

HCL = hydrochloride

^aSome patients used more than one IOP-lower medications of the same group

Comparisons of baseline characteristics of patients in IOP-lowering medication groups vs. controls

Table 2

Baseline Characteristics	Controls: without using any IOP-lowering medications (N=857)	Group A (increased aqueous outflow) users (N=28)	P-value for Group A vs. Controls	Group B (aqueous suppressant) users (N=19)	P-value for Group B vs. Controls
Age (years): mean (SE)	78.6 (7.6)	80.6 (7.2)	0.18	80.6 (6.6)	0.25
Sex: Male (%)	315 (36.8%)	7 (25.0%)	0.20	7 (36.8%)	0.99
Hypertension (%)	580 (67.7%)	25 (89.3%)	0.02	14 (73.7%)	0.58
Diabetes (%)	147 (17.2%)	4 (14.3%)	0.69	4 (21.1%)	0.66
Current smoking (%)	74 (8.6%)	2 (7.1%)	0.55	0 (0.0%)	0.36
Baseline VA: mean (SE)	61.3 (13.3)	59.1 (16.2)	0.40	57.4 (14.9)	0.21
Total area of CNV lesion: mean (SE)	2.5 (2.5)	2.6 (2.2)	0.75	2.5 (2.2)	0.96
Type of CNV (%)			0.38		0.29
Classic only	174 (20.3%)	9 (32.1%)		6 (31.6%)	
Occult only	518 (60.4%)	15 (53.6%)		11 (57.9%)	
Mixed	148 (17.3%)	3 (10.7%)		1 (5.3%)	
Unknown	17 (2.0%)	1 (3.6%)		1 (5.3%)	
Hemorrhage (associated with the lesion)			0.38		0.56
None	320 (37.3%)	12 (42.9%)		7 (36.8%)	
≤1 DA	444 (51.8%)	11 (39.3%)		8 (42.1%)	
>1, ≤2 DA	42 (4.9%)	1 (3.6%)		2 (10.5%)	
>2 DA	37 (4.3%)	3 (10.7%)		1 (5.3%)	
Unknown	14 (1.6%)	1 (3.6%)		1 (5.3%)	
Presence of GA (%)	55 (6.4%)	2 (7.1%)	0.88	1 (5.3%)	0.84
Retinal thickness (microns): mean (SE)	214.0 (100.0)	223.6 (122.2)	0.62	246.5 (128.2)	0.16
Total thickness (microns): mean (SE)	462.5 (188.0)	463.9 (187.9)	0.97	513.4 (197.8)	0.24
Intraretinal fluid (%)	632 (75.0%)	24 (85.7%)	0.19	16 (84.2%)	0.36
Sub-retinal fluid (%)	719 (84.4%)	21 (75.0%)	0.18	16 (84.2%)	0.98
Sub-RPE fluid (%)	431 (54.5%)	14 (53.8%)	0.95	9 (50.0%)	0.71
RPE elevation maximum height (microns): Median (1 st quartile, 3 rd quartile)	121 (66, 264)	154 (44, 242)	0.91	132 (66, 286)	0.99

Baseline Characteristics	Controls: without using any IOP-lowering medications (N=857)	Group A (increased aqueous outflow) users (N=28)	P-value for Group A vs. Controls	Group B (aqueous suppressant) users (N=19)	P-value for Group B vs. Controls
VMT-vitreous attached within central 3 mm (%)	113 (14.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.04	1 (5.3%)	0.28
Drug group (%)			0.96		0.79
Ranibizumab	433 (50.5%)	14 (50.0%)		9 (47.4%)	
Bevacizumab	424 (49.5%)	14 (50.0%)		10 (52.6%)	
Regimen group (%)			0.67		0.52
PRN	433 (50.5%)	13 (46.4%)		12 (63.2%)	
Switched	212 (24.7%)	6 (21.4%)		3 (15.8%)	
Monthly	212 (24.7%)	9 (32.1%)		4 (21.1%)	

IOP = intraocular pressure; SE = standard error; VA = visual acuity; CNV = choroidal neovascularization; GA = geographic atrophy; RPE = retinal pigment epithelium; VMT = vitreomacular traction

Table 3

Comparisons of VA outcomes and morphological outcomes at Year 2 of IOP-lowering medication groups vs. controls

Outcomes at Year 2	Group A vs. Control			Group B vs. Control	
	None (N=857)	Group A drugs (N=28)	P-value for Group A vs. None	Group B drugs (N=19)	P-value
VA (letters): mean (SE)	67.6 (18.3)	62.6 (23.6)	0.16	71.2 (12.4)	0.39
VA change from baseline (letters): mean (SE)	6.3 (16.6)	3.5 (20.8)	0.38	13.8 (11.7)	0.052
>= 15 letters decrease from baseline (%)	77 (9.0%)	5 (17.9%)	0.11	0 (0.0%)	0.17
>= 15 letters gain from baseline (%)	252 (29.4%)	8 (28.6%)	0.92	9 (47.4%)	0.09
Retinal thickness (microns): mean (SE)	159.1 (72.2)	143.0 (67.9)	0.25	149.8 (58.4)	0.57
Retinal thickness change from baseline (microns): mean (SE)	-54.9 (118.5)	-80.6 (129.2)	0.26	-96.8 (140.2)	0.13
Subretinal fluid thickness (microns): mean (SE)	9.4 (34.4)	0.4 (2.1)	0.17	15.2 (42.8)	0.47
Sub-RPE thickness (microns): mean (SE)	129.7 (106.9)	140.7 (97.8)	0.59	110.3 (80.6)	0.43
Total thickness (microns): mean (SE)	298.1 (141.0)	284.1 (126.7)	0.61	275.3 (103.4)	0.48
Change in total thickness from baseline (microns): mean (SE)	-162.5 (185.9)	-179.8 (205.9)	0.63	-238.2 (208.5)	0.08
Intraretinal fluid (%)	450 (54.3%)	13 (48.1%)	0.52	8 (42.1%)	0.29
Sub-retinal fluid (%)	295 (36.3%)	12 (44.4%)	0.39	7 (36.8%)	0.96
Sub-RPE fluid (%)	306 (38.3%)	10 (38.5%)	0.99	6 (33.3%)	0.67
No fluid on OCT (%)	187 (22.1%)	8 (28.6%)	0.41	6 (31.6%)	0.32
Leakage on FA (%)	228 (27.7%)	7 (25.0%)	0.76	6 (33.3%)	0.60
GA (%)	200 (23.3%)	8 (28.6%)	0.52	7 (36.8%)	0.17
Scar (%)	362 (43.3%)	12 (42.9%)	0.96	8 (44.4%)	0.92
Sub-retinal hyper-reflective material (%)	397 (47.5%)	16 (61.5%)	0.16	9 (47.4%)	0.99
RPE elevation (%)	799 (95.3%)	24 (85.7%)	0.02	15 (83.3%)	0.02
RPE elevation maximum height (mm): mean (SE)	541.2 (1276.6)	373.3 (1271.7)	0.49	641.1 (1821.7)	0.75

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Table 4

Adjusted analysis for the comparison of VA and morphological outcomes

Outcomes at Year 1	None (N=857)	Group A drugs (N=28)	Group A vs. Control		Group B drugs (N=19)	Group B vs. Control	
			Difference (95% CI)	P-value for Group A vs. None		Difference (95% CI)	P-value
Outcomes at Year 1: mean (SE)							
VA change from baseline (letters)	7.8 (0.5)	5.6 (2.7)	-2.2 (-7.5, 3.2)	0.42	10.2 (3.3)	2.4 (-4.0, 8.9)	0.46
Retinal thickness change from baseline (microns)	-57.7 (2.0)	-78.2 (11.2)	-20.4 (-42.7, 1.8)	0.07	-68.7 (13.6)	-11.0 (-38.0, 15.9)	0.42
Change in total thickness from baseline (microns)	-168.0 (4.2)	-201.7 (23.2)	-33.8 (-80.0, 12.4)	0.15	-216.6 (28.2)	-48.7 (-104.6, 7.2)	0.09
Outcomes at Year 2: mean (SE)							
VA change from baseline (letters)	6.4 (0.5)	2.8 (3.0)	-3.6 (-9.7, 2.4)	0.24	12.8 (3.7)	6.4 (-0.9, 13.6)	0.09
Retinal thickness change from baseline (microns)	-55.8 (2.5)	-72.3 (13.5)	-16.5 (-43.4, 10.4)	0.23	-67.6 (16.4)	-11.7 (-44.2, 20.8)	0.48
Change in total thickness from baseline (microns)	-163.3 (4.5)	-176.9 (24.5)	-13.5 (-62.4, 35.3)	0.59	-203.2 (29.8)	-39.8 (-98.9, 19.3)	0.19
Longitudinal analysis over 2 years: mean (SE)							
VA change from baseline (letters)	6.8 (0.4)	3.9 (2.5)	-2.9 (-7.8, 2.1)	0.26	9.4 (3.0)	2.6 (-3.4, 8.5)	0.39
Retinal thickness change from baseline (microns)	-53.5 (1.6)	-62.2 (10.0)	-8.7 (-28.7, 11.3)	0.39	-71.4 (9.3)	-17.9 (-36.5, 0.7)	0.06
Change in total thickness from baseline (microns)	-156.6 (3.6)	-167.2 (18.8)	-10.5 (-48.0, 27.0)	0.58	-211.3 (24.3)	-54.7 (-103.2, -6.2)	0.03

VA = Visual acuity; SE = standard error