# HAS THE TIME COME TO RE-EVALUATE THE TREATMENT PARADIGM FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY?

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# DISCLOSURES

### • Financial disclosures

- QDN: Consultant/Advisor: Bayer, Genentech, Inc., Regeneron, Santen
  - Stanford University, the employer of Dr Nguyen, has received research support from Genentech, Inc., Regeneron, and Santen
- LFH: Consultant: Aerpio, Alimera, Genentech, Inc., PolyPhotonix, Recens Medical
- IS: Employee/Stockholder: Genentech, Inc.

### • Study disclosures

- This study includes research conducted on human subjects
- Institutional Review Board approval was obtained prior to study initiation
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# **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- The index study examined whether the current evidence supports a paradigm shift towards earlier intervention in patients with diabetic retinopathy (DR)
- Analyses of real-world data have associated proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) with the development of sustained blindness in clinical practice
- Meanwhile, landmark trials showed that patients with moderately severe or severe NPDR were vulnerable to DR progression without treatment, and more likely to achieve DR improvement with anti-VEGF therapy
- Given the trend towards greater mean vision gains with greater DR improvement in RIDE/RISE, these data suggest that the time has come to consider earlier intervention to delay progression towards PDR

## EARLY INTERVENTION IS ASSOCIATED WITH DELAYED DISEASE PROGRESSION AND IMPROVED PATIENT OUTCOMES ACROSS THE MEDICAL FIELD

#### Multiple Sclerosis<sup>1,2</sup>



3. Figure reproduced with permission from: Breedveld FC, Kalden JR. Ann Rheum Dis. 2004;63(6):627-633. 4. Roth GA et al. JAMA. 2017;317(19):1976-1992. DMARD, disease-modifying antirheumatic drug.

# DO CLINICAL TRIAL AND REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE SUPPORT A PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARDS EARLIER INTERVENTION IN PATIENTS WITH DR?



## PROGRESSION TO SUSTAINED BLINDNESS IN CURRENT CLINICAL PRACTICE: AN IRIS<sup>®</sup> REGISTRY (INTELLIGENT RESEARCH IN SIGHT) ANALYSIS

- Aim: To characterize the development of sustained blindness in patients with DR
- Method: Retrospective analysis of the AAO IRIS Registry
  - First comprehensive clinical data registry for US-based eye care providers
  - Developed to drive quality improvement in ophthalmic care



Nguyen QD et al. Presented at: American Diabetes Association 79th Scientific Sessions; June 7-11, 2019; San Francisco, CA (manuscript in development). AAO, American Academy of Ophthalmology; DR, diabetic retinopathy.

## **IRIS REGISTRY ANALYSIS**



- No improvement beyond 20/100 after first 20/200 reading
- Time of event of sustained blindness = date of first VA reading of 20/200 or worse

Nguyen QD et al. Presented at: American Diabetes Association 79th Scientific Sessions; June 7-11, 2019; San Francisco, CA (manuscript in development). AAO, American Academy of Ophthalmology; AMD, age-related macular degeneration; DME, diabetic macular edema; DR, diabetic retinopathy; GA, geographic atrophy; mCNV, myopic choroidal neovascularization; NVG, neovascular glaucoma; PRP, panretinal photocoagulation; RD, retinal detachment; RDR, retinal detachment repair; RVO, retinal vein occlusion; VA, visual acuity; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VH, vitreous hemorrhage.

## IRIS REGISTRY: HIGHER PROBABILITY OF DEVELOPING SUSTAINED BLINDNESS IN PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH SEVERE NPDR OR PDR



Log-rank *P* < 0.0001.

Nguyen QD et al. Presented at: American Diabetes Association 79th Scientific Sessions; June 7-11, 2019; San Francisco, CA (manuscript in development). DR, diabetic retinopathy; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; PDR, proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

## **RIDE/RISE:** ANTI-VEGF THERAPY SLOWED PROGRESSION OF **RETINAL NONPERFUSION OVER 24 MONTHS**



Q4W, every 4 weeks; RBZ, ranibizumab; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

## RIDE/RISE: RATES OF DR PROGRESSION WERE GREATEST IN UNTREATED FELLOW EYES WITH MODERATELY SEVERE OR SEVERE NPDR (DRSS 47-53)



Analyses excluded eyes with prior panretinal photocoagulation at baseline; RBZ 0.3 mg and 0.5 mg treatment arms combined.

Bakri SJ et al. Presented at: 37th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Retina Specialists; July 26-30, 2019; Chicago, IL (manuscript in development).

DR, diabetic retinopathy; DRSS, Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; RBZ, ranibizumab.

## RIDE/RISE AND PANORAMA: HIGH RATES OF DR IMPROVEMENT WITH ANTI-VEGF THERAPY IN EYES WITH MODERATELY SEVERE OR SEVERE NPDR



#### **Baseline DR Severity**

<sup>a</sup> Eyes with prior panretinal photocoagulation at baseline were excluded.

1. Wykoff CC et al. *Ophthalmol Retina*. 2018;2(10):997-1009. 2. Wykoff CC et al. Presented at: Angiogenesis, Exudation, and Degeneration 2020; February 8, 2020; Miami, FL. AFL, aflibercept; DR, diabetic retinopathy; DRSS, Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; PRN, pro re nata (as-needed); Q4W, every 4 weeks; Q8W, every 8 weeks; Q16W, every 16 weeks; RBZ, ranibizumab; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.



## PROTOCOL I: RATES OF DR IMPROVEMENT WITH RBZ WERE NUMERICALLY GREATER IN EYES WITH MODERATELY SEVERE OR SEVERE NPDR OVER 5 YEARS



**Study Visit** 

<sup>a</sup> In eyes with NPDR (DRSS 35–43 or 47–53) at baseline, DR improvement was defined as an  $\geq$  2-step DRSS improvement versus baseline. In eyes with active proliferative DR (PDR; DRSS > 60) at baseline, DR improvement was defined as an  $\geq$  2-step DRSS improvement versus baseline, or regression to no PDR (DRSS  $\leq$  53 if no prior panretinal photocoagulation [PRP]; DRSS level 60 if PRP was present at study entry). Bressler SB et al. *Retina*. 2018;38(10):1896-1904.

DR, diabetic retinopathy; DRSS, Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; RBZ, ranibizumab.

## RIDE/RISE: TREND TOWARD GREATER MEAN VISION GAINS WITH GREATER DR IMPROVEMENT AMONG RBZ-TREATED EYES



Analyses included study eyes randomized to monthly RBZ 0.3 mg and 0.5 mg at RIDE/RISE baseline (n = 468).

Ehrlich JS et al. Presented at: 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; May 4-8, 2014; Orlando, FL.

BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; DR, diabetic retinopathy; DRSS, Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; RBZ, ranibizumab.

## **C**ONCLUSIONS

- IRIS Registry analyses have associated PDR with the development of sustained blindness in current clinical practice
- Landmark trials found that patients with moderately severe or severe NPDR (DRSS 47–53) are vulnerable to DR progression without treatment, and are more likely to achieve DR improvement with anti-VEGF therapy
- Further analyses revealed a trend toward greater mean vision gains, with greater DR improvement among anti-VEGF-treated eyes in RIDE/RISE
- These data raise the question of whether the time has come to re-evaluate therapeutic goals in DR management, including early intervention to delay progression towards PDR

