

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH  
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

**PrAHZANTIVE™**

Aflibercept Injection

Single Use Vials for the Treatment of a Single Eye

2 mg / 0.05 mL Solution for Intravitreal Injection

Ophthalmological / Antineovascularization agent

ATC Code: S01LA05

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AHZANTIVE (afibercept injection) is a biosimilar to EYLEA (afibercept injection). A biosimilar is a biologic drug that was granted authorization based on a demonstration of similarity to a version previously authorized in Canada, known as the reference biologic drug.

## **PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1 INDICATIONS**

Indications have been granted on the basis of similarity between AHZANTIVE™ and the reference biologic drug EYLEA®.

Ahzantive (afibercept injection) is indicated for:

- the treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- the treatment of visual impairment due to macular edema secondary to central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO)
- the treatment of visual impairment due to macular edema secondary to branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO)
- the treatment of diabetic macular edema (DME)
- the treatment of myopic choroidal neovascularization (myopic CNV)

#### **1.1. Pediatrics**

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of Ahzantive in pediatric patients have not been established; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

#### **1.2. Geriatrics**

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age): Clinical studies of aflibercept include participants 65 years of age and older. No clinically significant differences in efficacy or safety were seen with increasing age in these studies (see Geriatrics).

### **2 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- Patients who are hypersensitive to this drug, to any ingredient in the formulation, or to any component of the container. For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#) section.
- Patients with ocular or periocular infection
- Patients with active intraocular inflammation

### **4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **4.1 Dosing Considerations**

- FOR OPHTHALMIC INTRAVITREAL INJECTION ONLY.
- The Ahzantive vial is for **single-use only**.

- The vial contents should not be split or further compounded. Use of more than one injection from a vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.
- Ahzantive must only be administered by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections.

## 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

### ***Treatment of wet AMD***

The recommended dose for Ahzantive is 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters) administered by intravitreal injection every month (4 weeks) for the first 3 doses followed by 2 mg (0.05 mL) via intravitreal injection every 2 months (8 weeks).

Based on the treating ophthalmologist's judgement of visual and anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at two months or extended in 2-week increments if visual outcomes remain stable, no fluid is indicated by Optical Coherence Tomography and no hemorrhage is observed. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened to two months accordingly (see [14.5 Clinical Trials - Reference Biologic Drug](#)).

The maximum treatment interval between injections should not exceed 12 weeks in the first year of treatment and not exceed 16 weeks after the first year. Patients should be evaluated regularly. The schedule of monitoring visits may be more frequent than the injection visits.

In AMD clinical trials, aflibercept dosed every 4 weeks or every 8 weeks was shown to be non-inferior to ranibizumab. However, no additional efficacy was demonstrated when aflibercept was dosed every 4 weeks compared to every 8 weeks (see [14.5 Clinical Trials - Reference Biologic Drug](#)). At the discretion of the treating ophthalmologist and based on the monitoring of visual and anatomic outcomes, dosing every month (4 weeks) after the first 3 months (12 weeks) may be considered on an individual patient basis.

### ***Treatment of CRVO and BRVO***

The recommended dose for Ahzantive is 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters) administered by intravitreal injection once every month (4 weeks). The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month. The treatment interval may be extended up to 3 months (12 weeks) based on visual and anatomic outcomes. Prescribers are advised to periodically assess (every 1 to 2 months) the need for continued therapy.

Clinical trial experience of a monthly dosing regimen of 2 mg aflibercept beyond 6 months in the CRVO and BRVO indications is limited. The dosing regimen of once every 4 weeks changed at 24 weeks to a regimen that allowed for extension of the treatment interval based on visual and anatomic outcomes in the CRVO clinical trials and to once every 8 weeks in the BRVO clinical trial (see [14 CLINICAL TRIALS](#)).

### ***Treatment of DME***

The recommended dose for Ahzantive is 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 50 microliters solution for injection) administered by intravitreal injection monthly (once every 4 weeks) for the first 5 consecutive doses, followed by one injection every 2 months (8 weeks).

Based on the treating ophthalmologist's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at every two months or extended by up to 2-week increments at a time if visual and/or anatomic outcomes remain stable. There are limited data for treatment intervals longer

than 4 months (16 weeks).

If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened, accordingly. Treatment intervals shorter than 4 weeks between injections have not been studied.

Patients should be evaluated regularly. The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician and may be more frequent than the schedule of injections.

Aflibercept dosed as frequently as 2 mg every month showed similar efficacy to aflibercept dosed 2 mg once every 2 months in the DME clinical trials (see [14.5 Clinical Trials - Reference Biologic Drug](#)). At the discretion of the treating ophthalmologist and based on the monitoring of visual and anatomic outcomes, dosing every month (4 weeks) after the first 5 months (20 weeks) may be considered on an individual patient basis (see [8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions](#)).

#### ***Treatment of myopic CNV***

The recommended dose for Ahzantive is a single intravitreal injection of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 50 microliters solution for injection).

Additional doses should be administered only if visual and/or anatomic outcomes indicate that the disease persists. The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month (4 weeks). Recurrences are treated like a new manifestation of the disease.

#### ***Special Populations***

**Hepatic and/or renal impairment:** No specific studies in patients with hepatic and/or renal impairment were conducted with aflibercept.

**Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age):** No special dosing considerations are needed in elderly populations.

**Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):** The safety and efficacy of Ahzantive have not been studied in pediatric patients. Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

#### **4.4 Administration**

Intravitreal injections must be carried out by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections, and according to medical standards and under controlled aseptic conditions, which include surgical hand disinfection and the use of sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent). The peri-ocular skin, eyelid and ocular surface should be disinfected.

Adequate anesthesia and a topical broad spectrum microbicide should be used prior to the injection.

Prior to administration visually inspect the solution for injection. Do not use the vial if particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible.

For preparation and intravitreal injection, the following single use devices are needed:

- 5-micron sterile filter needle (18-gauge × 1½-inch)
- 1-mL sterile Luer-lock syringe
- 30 G × ½ inch injection needle

These medical devices are not included within the pack.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure. Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, sterile equipment for paracentesis should be available.

Following intravitreal injection patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of

endophthalmitis, retinal detachment or tear, cataract, scleritis, or increased intraocular pressure (eg, eye pain, redness/irritation of the eye, photophobia, blurring or loss of vision, ocular discharge, lid swelling) without delay.

**THE VIAL IS FOR SINGLE-USE ONLY. EACH VIAL IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE TREATMENT OF ONE EYE WITH 50 microliters (2 mg) OF AHZANTIVE.**

To expel the air bubbles along with excess drug, slowly depress the plunger to **align the base of the plunger dome (not the tip of the dome) with the dosing line on the syringe** (equivalent to 50 microliters i.e. 2 mg aflibercept) (see [5 OVERDOSAGE](#) and [12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS](#)). **AFTER INJECTION, ANY UNUSED PRODUCT MUST BE DISCARDED.**

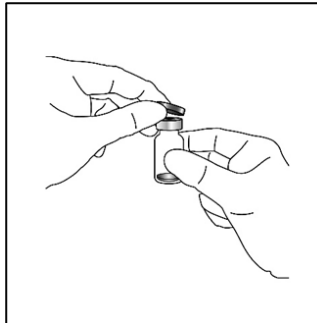
Prior to usage, the unopened blister pack or vial of Ahzantive may be stored at room temperature (25°C) for up to 24 hours. After opening the blister pack or vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.

To prepare Ahzantive for intravitreal injection, please adhere to the following instructions:

Prior to usage, the unopened blister pack or vial of Ahzantive may be stored at room temperature (25°C) for up to 24 hours. After opening the blister pack or vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.

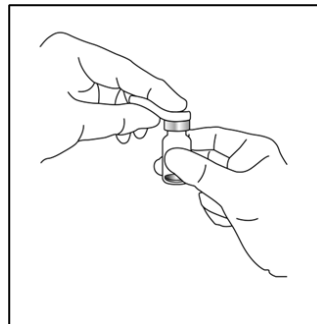
To prepare Ahzantive for intravitreal injection, please adhere to the following instructions:

1. Remove the protective plastic cap from the vial (see [Figure 1](#)).



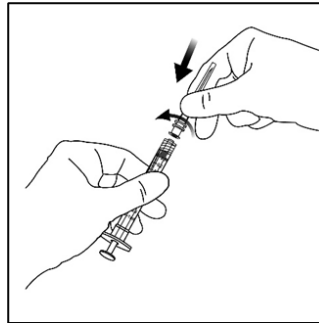
**Figure 1**

2. Clean the top of the vial with an alcohol wipe (see [Figure 2](#))



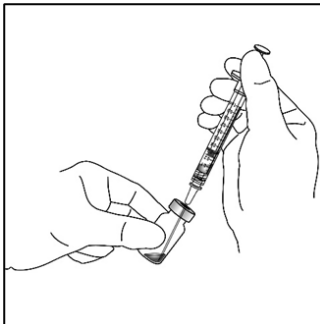
**Figure 2**

3. Attach a 18 G, 5-micron filter needle (not supplied) to a 1-mL sterile, Luer-lock syringe (not supplied) by twisting it onto the Luer lock syringe tip (see [Figure 3](#))

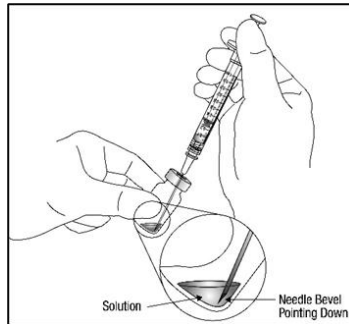


**Figure 3**

4. Push the filter needle into the centre of the vial stopper until the needle is completely inserted into the vial and the tip touches the bottom edge of the vial.
5. Using aseptic technique withdraw all of the Ahzantive vial contents into the syringe, keeping the vial in an upright position, slightly inclined to ease complete withdrawal. To deter the introduction of air, ensure the bevel of the filter needle is submerged into the liquid. Continue to tilt the vial during withdrawal keeping the bevel of the filter needle submerged in the liquid (see [Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#)).



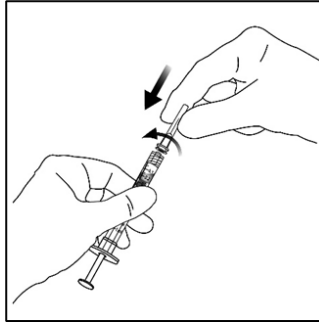
**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**

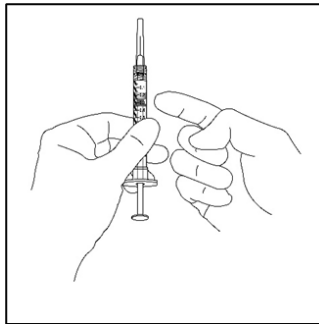
6. Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial in order to completely empty the filter needle. After injection, any unused product must be discarded.
7. Remove the filter needle from the syringe and properly dispose of the filter needle.  
**Note:** Filter needle is **not** to be used for intravitreal injection.

8. Using aseptic technique, attach a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle (not supplied) to the syringe by firmly twisting the injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip (see [Figure 6](#)).



**Figure 6**

9. Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top (see [Figure 7](#)).



**Figure 7**

10. To eliminate all of the bubbles and to expel excess drug, slowly depress the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks 0.05 mL on the syringe (see [Figure 8](#) and [Figure 9](#)).

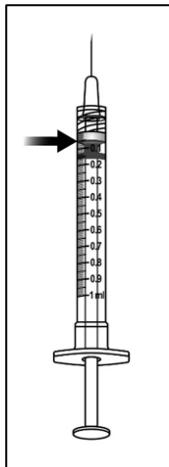


Figure 8

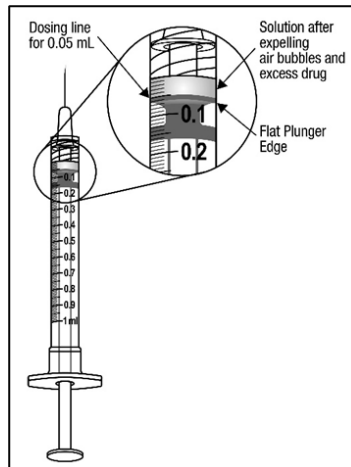


Figure 9

#### 4.5 Missed Dose

If a planned injection of Ahzantive is missed, reset a new appointment for an examination and injection as soon as possible. Reset the dose schedule to administer the next sequential dose after the missed dose is administered.

#### 5 OVERDOSAGE

Cases of accidental overdose have been reported from the clinical studies. Adverse reactions associated with these reported cases were intraocular pressure increased, corneal edema, and eye pain.

Overdosing with increased injection volume may increase intraocular pressure. Therefore, in case of an overdose, intraocular pressure should be monitored and if deemed necessary by the treating physician, adequate treatment should be initiated (see [12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS](#)).

For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).

#### 6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Intravitreal Injection	Solution / 2 mg / 0.05 mL	histidine, histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, polysorbate 20, sodium chloride, sucrose,

		water for injection
--	--	---------------------

Ahzantive is provided as a sterile, clear, colourless to pale yellow, iso-osmotic, preservative-free aqueous solution containing histidine, histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, polysorbate 20, sodium chloride, sucrose, and water for injection.

One millilitre solution for intravitreal injection contains 40 mg aflibercept. This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, ie, essentially 'sodium-free'.

Each carton includes a type I glass vial containing an extractable volume of at least 100 microliters solution for intravitreal injection with an elastomeric butyl rubber stopper.

Each vial provides a usable amount to deliver a single dose of 50 microliters containing 2 mg aflibercept.

## 7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### General

- Treatment with Ahzantive (aflibercept injection) is for intravitreal injection only.

### Driving and Operating Machinery

Patients may experience temporary visual disturbances after an intravitreal injection with Ahzantive and the associated eye examinations. They should not drive or use machines until visual function has recovered sufficiently.

### Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Aflibercept has not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment.

### Immune

#### *Hypersensitivity*

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a risk of hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as rash, pruritus, urticaria, severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions, or severe intraocular inflammation. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms of anaphylaxis, allergic reactions or intraocular inflammation (e.g., pain, photophobia, or redness, which, although non-specific, should also be assessed as potential hypersensitivity reactions).

### Ophthalmologic

#### *Endophthalmitis, Retinal detachments and Cataracts*

Intravitreal injections, including those with aflibercept, have been associated with endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, retinal tear, retinal pigment epithelium tear, cataract including traumatic cataract, vitreous hemorrhage and hyphema (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)). The proper aseptic injection technique must always be used when administering Ahzantive (see [4.4 Administration](#)). Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of any event listed above without delay and should be managed appropriately.

#### *Retinal vasculitis and Retinal occlusive vasculitis*

Retinal vasculitis and retinal occlusive vasculitis have been reported with the use of aflibercept, typically in the presence of intraocular inflammation or treatment with other intravitreal agents. Patients experiencing any change in vision following treatment should talk to their health professional

without delay to determine continuation of treatment.

#### **Increase in Intraocular Pressure**

Increases in intraocular pressure have been observed within 60 minutes of an intravitreal injection, including with aflibercept (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)). Sustained (present at 2 or more consecutive visits) IOP increases > 21 mm Hg have also been reported in 34 (1.9%) patients treated with aflibercept and 30 (5.0%) patients treated with ranibizumab in wet AMD clinical trials, and in 5 (2.3%) patients treated with aflibercept and 9 (6.3%) patients treated with sham in CRVO clinical trials; and in 7 (7.7%) patients treated with aflibercept and 4 (4.3%) patients treated with laser in the BRVO clinical trial. In the DME Phase III clinical trials, sustained intraocular pressure increases have been reported in 3.6% (21/578) of patients initiated treatment with aflibercept and in 2.4% (7/287) of patients initiated treatment with laser. In all cases, both intraocular pressure and the perfusion of the optic nerve head must therefore be monitored and managed appropriately.

Aflibercept has not been tested in patients with poorly controlled glaucoma.

#### **Other**

As with other intravitreal anti-VEGF treatments, treatment should be withheld and resumed only when considered appropriate in cases of:

- An IOP of  $\geq$  30 mmHg
- Within the previous or next 28 days in the event of a performed or planned intraocular surgery
- A retinal break. The treatment should not be resumed until the break is adequately repaired

There is only limited experience in the treatment of subjects with DME due to type I diabetes or in diabetic patients with an HbA1c over 12% or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Aflibercept has not been studied in patients with active systemic infections or in patients with concurrent eye conditions such as retinal detachment or macular hole. There is also no experience of treatment with aflibercept in diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension. This lack of information should be considered by the physician when treating such patients.

In myopic CNV, a clinical trial was conducted in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Thus there is no clinical trial experience with aflibercept in the treatment of non-Asian patients for this indication. Furthermore, there is also no clinical trial experience in patients who have previously undergone treatment for myopic CNV, and in the patients with extrafoveal lesions. This lack of information should be considered by the physician before treating such patients.

In clinical trials of AMD, CRVO, BRVO and myopic CNV, only one eye per patient was treated with aflibercept injection. The safety and efficacy of aflibercept therapy administered to both eyes concurrently or consecutively have not been studied.

#### **Renal**

Aflibercept has not been studied in patients with renal impairment (see [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#) and [10.3 Pharmacokinetics](#)).

#### **Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential**

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of aflibercept (see [7.1.1 Pregnant Women](#)).

#### **Systemic Effects**

### **Thromboembolic Events**

Arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) are adverse events potentially related to systemic VEGF inhibition. There is a potential risk of ATEs following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors, including aflibercept.

ATEs, as defined by the Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaboration (APTC) criteria, include nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, or vascular death (including deaths of unknown cause). There are limited data on safety in the treatment of patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME or myopic CNV with a history of stroke or transient ischemic attacks or myocardial infarction within the last 6 months.

The incidence of APTC ATEs in the VIEW1 and VIEW2 wet AMD studies during the 96 weeks study duration was 3.3% (60 out of 1824) in the combined group of patients treated with aflibercept compared with 3.2% (19 out of 595) in patients treated with ranibizumab.

The incidence of APTC ATEs in the CRVO studies (GALILEO and COPERNICUS) during the 76/100 weeks study duration was 0.9% (2 out of 218) in patients treated with aflibercept +PRN compared to 1.4% (2 out of 142) in the group of patients receiving only sham treatment.

The incidence of APTC ATEs in the BRVO study (VIBRANT) during the 52 weeks study duration was 0% in the aflibercept treatment group patients and 2.2% (2 out of 92) in the laser + aflibercept control group through week 52. One of these patients in the laser group had received aflibercept rescue treatment.

The incidence of APTC ATEs in the DME studies (VISTA<sup>DME</sup> and VIVID<sup>DME</sup>) was 6.4% (37 out of 578) and 4.2% (12 out of 287) at Week 100; and 9.0% (52 out of 578) and 7.7% (22 out of 287) at Week 148 in the combined group of patients treated with aflibercept and in the control (laser) group, respectively. The incidence of adjudicated vascular deaths, as defined by APTC criteria in the DME studies (VISTA<sup>DME</sup> and VIVID<sup>DME</sup>), was 2.1 % (12 out of 578) and 1.0% (3 out of 287) at Week 100, and 2.9 % (17 out of 578) and 1.4% (4 out of 287) at Week 148 in the combined aflibercept groups and in the control (laser) group, respectively.

The incidence of APTC ATEs in the myopic CNV study (MYRROR) during the 48 weeks study duration was 1.1% (1 out of 91) in the group of patients treated with aflibercept compared to 0% (0 out of 31) in the group of patients in the control (sham) group.

### **Non-ocular Hemorrhages**

Non-ocular hemorrhages have been reported following intravitreal injection of VEGF inhibitors, including aflibercept, and there is a theoretical risk that these may relate to VEGF inhibition.

## **7.1 Special Populations**

### **7.1.1 Pregnant Women**

There are no data on the use of aflibercept in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity after systemic administration including fetal loss and severe embryofetal malformations (see [16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY](#)). Ahzantive should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly indicated by medical need, and the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus.

### **7.1.2 Breast-feeding**

It is not known whether aflibercept is excreted in human milk. A risk to the breast-fed child cannot be

excluded. Ahzantive is not recommended during breast-feeding. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to postpone, if feasible, therapy with Ahzantive. The benefits of therapy should be weighed against potential risks to the child.

### 7.1.3 Pediatrics

**Pediatric Use (< 18 years of age):** The safety and efficacy of Ahzantive in pediatric patients have not been established.

### 7.1.4 Geriatrics

In the wet AMD Phase III clinical trials, 89% (1616/1817) of patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were  $\geq 65$  years of age and 63% (1139/1817) were  $\geq 75$  years of age.

In CRVO studies, approximately 52% (112/217) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were  $\geq 65$  years of age, and approximately 18% (38/217) were  $\geq 75$  years of age.

In the BRVO study, approximately 58% (53/91) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 23% (21/91) were 75 years of age or older.

In the DME Phase III studies, approximately 47% (268/576) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were  $\geq 65$  years of age, and approximately 9% (52/576) were  $\geq 75$  years of age.

In the myopic CNV study, approximately 36% (33/91) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were  $\geq 65$  years of age, and approximately 10% (9/91) were  $\geq 75$  years of age.

No clinically significant differences in efficacy or safety were seen with increasing age in these studies

## 8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

### 8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

#### *Treatment of wet AMD*

A total of 1824 patients with up to 96 weeks exposure to aflibercept constituted the safety population in the 2 double-blind active-controlled clinical studies (VIEW1 and VIEW2); of these, 1223 patients were treated with the 2 mg dose (see [14 CLINICAL TRIALS](#)).

Serious adverse reactions related to the injection procedure in the Phase III AMD trials have occurred in less than 1 in 1000 intravitreal injections (22 of 36206 injections) with either aflibercept or ranibizumab, and included endophthalmitis, cataract traumatic, increased intraocular pressure, retinal detachment, and vitreous detachment (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)).

In patients randomized to the aflibercept 2mg every 8 weeks (2Q8) treatment group, fewer injection-related SAEs were observed in comparison to patients treated with aflibercept 2mg every 4 weeks and patients treated with ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (3 [0.5%] vs. 8 [1.3%] vs. 12 [2.0%]). The most common ocular serious adverse events in patients treated with aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks, aflibercept 2mg every 4 weeks and ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks, respectively, included: visual acuity reduced (7 [1.1%], 7 [1.1%] vs. 7 [1.2%]), retinal hemorrhage (6 [1.0%], 3 [0.5%] vs. 6 [1.0%]), cataract (4 [0.7%], 5 [0.8%] vs. 5 [0.8%]), retinal pigment epithelial tear (3 [0.5%], 0 [0.0%] vs. 1 [0.2%]) and endophthalmitis (0 [0.0%], 4 [0.7%] vs. 6 [1.0%]).

The most common adverse reactions (in at least 5% of patients treated with aflibercept) were

conjunctival hemorrhage (26.7%), eye pain (10.3%), vitreous detachment (8.4%), cataract (7.9%), vitreous floaters (7.6%), and increased intraocular pressure (7.2%). These adverse reactions occurred with a similar incidence in the ranibizumab treatment group.

#### **Treatment of CRVO**

Serious adverse reactions related to the injection procedure occurred in 3 out of 2,728 intravitreal injections with aflibercept and included endophthalmitis (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)), cataract and vitreous detachment.

In CRVO clinical trials, the SAEs which occurred in  $\geq 2$  patients and occurred more frequently in the aflibercept+PRN group than in the Sham+PRN group in at least one clinical trial were (aflibercept+PRN vs. Sham+PRN): cataract (4 [2%] vs. 1 [1%]), macular edema (5 [2%] vs. 2 [1%]) and cystoid macular edema (2 [1%] vs. 0 [0%]) through week 76/100. The following ocular SAEs each occurred only in one patient receiving aflibercept treatment (1 [0.5%] subject), and in no patients who received sham treatment: endophthalmitis, corneal abrasion, vitreous detachment, retinal artery occlusion, and macular ischemia.

Through week 24, the most common ocular AEs ( $\geq 5\%$  of patients treated with aflibercept and more frequently in the aflibercept group than in the Sham group) were (aflibercept vs. Sham): eye pain (13% vs. 5%), conjunctival hemorrhage (12% vs. 11%), intraocular pressure increased (8% vs. 6%), retinal exudates (6% vs. 4%), optic disc vascular disorders (6% vs. 3%) and vitreous floaters (5% vs. 1%). The most common non-ocular AE ( $\geq 5\%$  of patients) that occurred more frequently in the aflibercept group than in the Sham group was hypertension (6% vs. 5%).

Through week 76/100, the most common AEs occurred more frequently in the aflibercept+PRN group than in the Sham+PRN group in at least one clinical trial were (aflibercept+PRN vs. Sham+PRN): macular edema (29% vs. 11%), cystoid macular edema (10% vs. 4%), vitreous floaters (7% vs. 4%), ocular hyperemia (7% vs. 4%), visual impairment (4% vs. 1%) and macular degeneration (4% vs. 1%).

#### **Treatment of BRVO**

Serious adverse reactions related to the injection procedure occurred in 1 out of 1,115 intravitreal injections with aflibercept: one case of traumatic cataract (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)).

In the BRVO trial, one ocular SAE (traumatic cataract) was observed in the aflibercept group. The overall incidence of SAEs was 10% in the laser group and 10% in the aflibercept by week 24, 11% in the laser group and 15% in the aflibercept group by week 52. No drug-related SAEs were reported. After week 24, patients in the laser group could become eligible for aflibercept treatment.

The most common ocular AEs ( $\geq 5\%$ ) in the study eye were conjunctival hemorrhage (4% laser group and 20% aflibercept group through week 24, 15% laser group and 24% aflibercept group through week 52) and eye pain (5% laser group and 4% aflibercept group through week 24, 8% laser group and 5% aflibercept group through week 52, and eye irritation (1% laser group and 8% aflibercept group through week 52).

#### **Treatment of DME**

In the DME Phase III study, VISTA<sup>DME</sup>, two patients experienced serious adverse reactions related to the injection procedure (vitreous hemorrhage and hyphema). In VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, five patients experienced serious adverse reactions related to the injection procedure which included posterior capsule trauma, retinal detachment, cataract and vitreous hemorrhage (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)).

Ocular serious adverse reactions in patients treated with aflibercept (2Q4 and 2Q8 treatment arms)

and laser therapy, respectively, were: cataract (10 [1.7%] vs. 1 [0.3%]); vitreous hemorrhage (5 [0.9%] vs. 5 [1.7%]); retinal detachment (2 [0.3%] vs. 0 [0.0%]); cataract subcapsular (1 [0.2%] vs. 0 [0.0%]); punctate keratitis (1 [0.2%] vs. 0 [0.0%]); hyphema (1 [0.2%] vs. 0 [0.0%]); and increased intraocular pressure (1 [0.2%] vs. 0 [0.0%]).

The most common adverse reactions (in at least 5% of patients randomized to the aflibercept treatment arms (2Q4 and 2Q8) were conjunctival hemorrhage (31.1%), cataract (11.6%), eye pain (10.7%), intraocular pressure increased (9.2%), vitreous floaters (8.5%) and vitreous detachment (8.0%).

Through 100 weeks, the incidence of death (regardless of cause) in the aflibercept 2Q4, aflibercept 2Q8 and laser groups was 5.2%, 2.6%, and 1.9%, respectively, in VISTA, and 2.9%, 4.4%, and 0.8%, respectively, in VIVID. Through 148 weeks, the incidence of death (regardless of cause) in the aflibercept 2Q4, aflibercept 2Q8 and laser groups was 6.5% (19 out of 291), 4.5% (13 out of 287), and 2.9% (8 out of 287), respectively, in the DME studies (VISTA<sup>DME</sup> and VIVID<sup>DME</sup>). The overall rate was low and causes of death were consistent with the advanced diabetic complications and comorbidities present in this patient population. No evidence of dose response was demonstrated across these 2 studies.

#### **Treatment of myopic CNV**

In the myopic CNV Phase III study (MYRROR), one serious adverse reaction related to the injection procedure (macular hole) had occurred in 474 intravitreal injections with aflibercept.

One ocular serious adverse reaction (macular hole) occurred in patients treated with aflibercept.

The most common adverse reactions (in at least 5% of patients randomized to the aflibercept arm were: conjunctival hemorrhage (11.0%), eye pain (7.7%), punctate keratitis (6.6%).

## **8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions**

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse reactions in real-world use.

#### **Treatment of wet AMD**

The safety data include all adverse reactions (serious and non-serious) with a reasonable possibility of causality to the injection procedure or medicinal product (see [Table 2](#) for baseline to week 52 data and [Table 3](#) for week 52 to week 96 data).

**Table 2 – Adverse Reactions (Ocular and Non-Ocular) in VIEW1 and VIEW2 wet AMD Studies Adverse Reactions Possibly Related to aflibercept with Incidence rate ≥1% (52 week data; safety population)**

Primary system organ class Preferred term MedDRA Version 16.0	VIEW1			VIEW2		
	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=304 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=304 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=303 (100%)	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=291 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=309 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=307 (100%)
	<b>Eye disorders</b>					
Conjunctival hemorrhage	144 (47.4%)	109 (35.9%)	131 (43.2%)	24 (8.2%)	25 (8.1%)	29 (9.4%)
Eye pain	26 (8.6%)	33 (10.9%)	22 (7.3%)	27 (9.3%)	33 (10.7%)	21 (6.8%)
Vitreous detachment	24 (7.9%)	26 (8.6%)	21 (6.9%)	9 (3.1%)	20 (6.5%)	15 (4.9%)
Vitreous floaters	33 (10.9%)	40 (13.2%)	20 (6.6%)	10 (3.4%)	10 (3.2%)	8 (2.6%)
Foreign body sensation in eyes	9 (3.0%)	8 (2.6%)	16 (5.3%)	13 (4.5%)	13 (4.2%)	5 (1.6%)
Lacrimation increased	6 (2.0%)	9 (3.0%)	11 (3.6%)	2 (0.7%)	7 (2.3%)	5 (1.6%)
Retinal detachment	5 (1.6%)	4 (1.3%)	11 (3.6%)	5 (1.7%)	4 (1.3%)	11 (3.6%)
Retinal pigment epithelial tear	5 (1.6%)	1 (0.3%)	11 (3.6%)	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.6%)	7 (2.3%)
Cataract	6 (2.0%)	11 (3.6%)	8 (2.6%)	15 (5.2%)	16 (5.2%)	12 (3.9%)
Vision blurred	10 (3.3%)	11 (3.6%)	8 (2.6%)	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.3%)	3 (1.0%)
Cataract nuclear	7 (2.3%)	4 (1.3%)	6 (2.0%)	4 (1.4%)	5 (1.6%)	1 (0.3%)
Cataract subcapsular	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	6 (2.0%)	1 (0.3%)	3 (1.0%)	2 (0.7%)
Cataract cortical	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.3%)	1 (0.3%)	0	2 (0.7%)
Corneal edema	3 (1.0%)	4 (1.3%)	4 (1.3%)	0	5 (1.6%)	2 (0.7%)
Detachment of retinal pigment epithelium	6 (2.0%)	5 (1.6%)	4 (1.3%)	14 (4.8%)	19 (6.1%)	12 (3.9%)
Anterior chamber flare	3 (1.0%)	0	3 (1.0%)	4 (1.4%)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)
Eyelid edema	5 (1.6%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.0%)	7 (2.4%)	7 (2.3%)	4 (1.3%)
Ocular hyperemia	11 (3.6%)	8 (2.6%)	3 (1.0%)	18 (6.2%)	13 (4.2%)	8 (2.6%)
Conjunctival hyperemia	4 (1.3%)	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	14 (4.8%)	6 (1.9%)	1 (0.3%)
Corneal epithelium defect	2 (0.7%)	1 (0.3%)	0	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.3%)	3 (1.0%)
Corneal erosion	0	0	0	7 (2.4%)	3 (1.0%)	7 (2.3%)
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>						
Injection site pain	11 (3.6%)	9 (3.0%)	12 (4.0%)	9 (3.1%)	11 (3.6%)	8 (2.6%)
Injection site hemorrhage	5 (1.6%)	6 (2.0%)	6 (2.0%)	5 (1.7%)	5 (1.6%)	4 (1.3%)
Injection site irritation	2 (0.7%)	0	4 (1.3%)	0	0	0

Primary system organ class Preferred term MedDRA Version 16.0	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=304 (100%)	VIEW1		Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=291 (100%)	VIEW2	
		Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=304 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=303 (100%)		Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=309 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=307 (100%)
<b>Infections and infestations</b>						
Endophthalmitis	3 (1.0%)	3 (1.0%)	0	0	0	0
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>						
Corneal abrasion	4 (1.3%)	3 (1.0%)	4 (1.3%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)
<b>Investigations</b>						
Intraocular pressure increased	21 (6.9%)	14 (4.6%)	15 (5.0%)	20 (6.9%)	24 (7.8%)	16 (5.2%)

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

**Table 3 – Adverse Reactions (Ocular and Non-Ocular) in VIEW1 and VIEW2 wet AMD Studies Adverse Reactions Possibly Related to aflibercept with Incidence rate ≥1% (from week 52 to week 96 data<sup>a</sup>; safety population)**

Primary system organ class Preferred term MedDRA Version 16.0	VIEW1			VIEW2		
	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=280 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=290 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=274 (100%)	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4 N=276 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q4 N=281 (100%)	Aflibercept 2.0 mg Q8 N=284 (100%)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>						
Conjunctival hemorrhage	52 (18.6%)	37 (12.8%)	41 (15.0%)	9 (3.3%)	4 (1.4%)	3 (1.1%)
Vitreous floaters	16 (5.7%)	13 (4.5%)	12 (4.4%)	1 (0.4%)	0	3 (1.1%)
Eye pain	11 (3.9%)	12 (4.1%)	11 (4.0%)	2 (0.7%)	6 (2.1%)	6 (2.1%)
Detachment of retinal pigment epithelium	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)	8 (2.9%)	7 (2.5%)	3 (1.1%)	4 (1.4%)
Foreign body sensation in eyes	4 (1.4%)	4 (1.4%)	8 (2.9%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)
Vision blurred	4 (1.4%)	8 (2.8%)	7 (2.6%)	3 (1.1%)	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)
Vitreous detachment	9 (3.2%)	10 (3.4%)	7 (2.6%)	7 (2.5%)	6 (2.1%)	4 (1.4%)
Lacrimation increased	5 (1.8%)	3 (1.0%)	6 (2.2%)	0	5 (1.8%)	4 (1.4%)
Cataract	7 (2.5%)	12 (4.1%)	5 (1.8%)	13 (4.7%)	15 (5.3%)	18 (6.3%)
Cataract nuclear	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.4%)	4 (1.5%)	2 (0.7%)	5 (1.8%)	1 (0.4%)
Eyelid edema	2 (0.7%)	0	4 (1.5%)	1 (0.4%)	0	1 (0.4%)
Punctate keratitis	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.0%)	4 (1.5%)	3 (1.1%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)
Cataract cortical	3 (1.1%)	1 (0.3%)	3 (1.1%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)
Cataract subcapsular	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.4%)	3 (1.1%)	0	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)
Corneal edema	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.1%)	0	3 (1.1%)	0
Ocular hyperemia	2 (0.7%)	0	2 (0.7%)	2 (0.7%)	5 (1.8%)	1 (0.4%)
Conjunctival hyperemia	6 (2.1%)	0	1 (0.4%)	6 (2.2%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.1%)
Retinal detachment	0	1 (0.3%)	0	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)	5 (1.8%)
<b>Investigations</b>						
Intraocular pressure increased	15 (5.4%)	4 (1.4%)	8 (2.9%)	18 (6.5%)	13 (4.6%)	15 (5.3%)

a During this period (weeks 52 to 96), patients continued to receive the dosage strength to which they were initially randomized but on a modified dosing schedule guided by assessment of visual and anatomic outcomes with a protocol-defined maximum dosing interval of 12 weeks

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

In addition, 157 wet AMD patients were treated for up to 44 months in a long term extension of the Phase I and Phase II studies. The safety profile was consistent with that seen in the Phase III wet AMD studies.

#### Treatment of CRVO

A total of 317 patients treated with at least one dose of aflibercept constituted the safety population in the two Phase III CRVO studies (COPERNICUS and GALILEO).

Patients in the aflibercept groups (n=218) received aflibercept 2 mg, monthly for 6 months and then received aflibercept only if they met prespecified treatment criteria to Week 76 (Study GALILEO) or Week 100 (Study COPERNICUS). Patients in the Control groups received sham injections monthly from baseline to Week 24 (Study COPERNICUS, n=74) or to Week 52 (Study GALILEO, n=68) and then received aflibercept if they met prespecified treatment criteria.

The most common adverse reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) which have been assessed as having reasonable or suspected relationship to either the study drug or the injection procedure in the CRVO studies (COPERNICUS and GALILEO) are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4 – Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) in CRVO Studies (COPERNICUS and GALILEO, up to 76/100 weeks)**

Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	Aflibercept <sup>a</sup> (N=218)	Control (sham) <sup>a</sup> (N=142)	Aflibercept <sup>a</sup> + PRN (N=218)		Aflibercept Total <sup>b</sup> (N=317)
			Control (sham) <sup>a</sup> + PRN (N=142)		
	Baseline to Week 24		Baseline to Week 76/100		
Conjunctival hemorrhage	11.9%	11.3%	18.3%	14.1%	15.8%
Intraocular pressure increased	7.8%	6.3%	14.7%	12.0%	12.9%
Eye pain	12.8%	4.9%	16.5%	7.7%	12.6%
Vitreous detachment	2.8%	4.2%	9.2%	5.6%	6.9%
Vitreous floaters	5.0%	1.4%	7.3%	3.5%	5.7%
Lacrimation increased	2.8%	3.5%	4.6%	7.0%	5.0%
Ocular hyperemia	4.1%	2.8%	6.9%	2.8%	5.0%
Cataract	0%	0.7%	5.0%	3.5%	4.4%
Foreign body sensation in eyes	3.2%	4.9%	4.1%	5.6%	3.5%
Injection site pain	2.8%	1.4%	4.1%	2.1%	3.2%
Corneal abrasion	1.8%	0.7%	2.8%	1.4%	2.2%
Vision blurred	1.4%	0.7%	2.3%	1.4%	1.9%
Cataract nuclear	0%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%	1.6%
Injection site hemorrhage	0%	0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%
Lenticular opacities	0.9%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%	1.3%
Corneal erosion	1.4%	0.7%	1.4%	2.1%	1.3%
Retinal tear	0.5%	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%

PRN: As needed (*pro re nata*)

a As randomized in the GALILEO or COPERNICUS study

b Aflibercept Total = all patients who received at least one active aflibercept including patients who were previously in the Control arm.

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row

**Table 5 – Ocular and non-ocular adverse events, regardless of relationship to treatment (treatment emergent adverse events with incidence rate  $\geq 1\%$  in any treatment arm), with a difference of  $\geq 2\%$  between aflibercept and Sham (COPERNICUS and GALILEO Studies, 24 weeks)**

<b>Primary system organ class</b> Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	<b>Aflibercept 2Q4</b> <b>N=218</b>	<b>Control</b> <b>(Sham Injection)</b> <b>N=142</b>
<b>Eye disorders</b>		
Eye irritation	9 (4.1%)	10 (7.0%)
Eye pain	28 (12.8%)	7 (4.9%)
Iris neovascularisation	2 (0.9%)	7 (4.9%)
Macular degeneration	5 (2.3%)	0
Macular edema	6 (2.8%)	12 (8.5%)
Maculopathy	13 (6.0%)	3 (2.1%)
Optic disc vascular disorder	12 (5.5%)	4 (2.8%)
Retinal exudates	14 (6.4%)	6 (4.2%)
Retinal hemorrhage	10 (4.6%)	11 (7.7%)
Retinal neovascularisation	1 (0.5%)	4 (2.8%)
Retinal vascular disorder	12 (5.5%)	12 (8.5%)
Visual acuity reduced	9 (4.1%)	20 (14.1%)
Vitreous floaters	13 (6.0%)	2 (1.4%)
Vitreous hemorrhage	5 (2.3%)	8 (5.6%)
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>		
Nausea	0	4 (2.8%)
<b>Investigations</b>		
Intraocular pressure increased	18 (8.3%)	9 (6.3%)
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>		
Fall	0	3 (2.1%)
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>		
Arthralgia	2 (0.9%)	6 (4.2%)
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>		
Cough	1 (0.5%)	4 (2.8%)

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

**Table 6 – Ocular and non-ocular adverse events, regardless of relationship to treatment (treatment emergent adverse events with incidence rate ≥1% in any treatment arm), with a difference of ≥2% between aflibercept and Sham in at least one study (COPERNICUS and GALILEO Studies, Week 24 to Week 76/100)**

System organ class, Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	COPERNICUS		GALILEO			
	Week 24 to Week 100		Week 24 to Week 52		Week 52 to Week 76	
	Aflibercept +PRN N=110	SHAM+PRN N=60	Aflibercept +PRN N=97	SHAM N=57	Aflibercept +PRN N= 91	SHAM+PRN N= 52
<b>Blood and Lymphatic Disorders</b>						
Anemia	5 (4.5%)	2 (3.3%)	0	2 (3.5%)	0	1 (1.9%)
Cardiac Disorders						
Cardiac failure congestive	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Coronary artery disease	3 (2.7%)	0	0	0	0	1 (1.9%)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>						
Anterior chamber angle neovascularization	0	0	2 (2.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Blepharitis	3 (2.7%)	0	2 (2.1%)	0	0	1 (1.9%)
Conjunctival hemorrhage	16 (14.5%)	9 (15.0%)	5 (5.2%)	1 (1.8%)	6 (6.6%)	1 (1.9%)
Corneal erosion	0	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.0%)	2 (3.5%)	0	0
Cystoid macular edema	16 (14.5%)	4 (6.7%)	3 (3.1%)	0	4 (4.4%)	1 (1.9%)
Diabetic retinopathy	1 (0.9%)	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0
Dry Eye	1 (0.9%)	4 (6.7%)	2 (2.1%)	0	0	1 (1.9%)
Eye irritation	5 (4.5%)	2 (3.3%)	4 (4.1%)	1 (1.8%)	0	2 (3.8%)
Eye pain	10 (9.1%)	5 (8.3%)	6 (6.2%)	2 (3.5%)	1 (1.1%)	0
Foreign body sensation in eyes	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	2 (2.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Iris neovascularisation	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	3 (3.1%)	0	2 (2.2%)	0
Lacrimation increased	4 (3.6%)	4 (6.7%)	3 (3.1%)	4 (7.0%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (3.8%)
Macular cyst	2 (1.8%)	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.0%)	2 (3.5%)	1 (1.1%)	0
Macular degeneration	2 (1.8%)	2 (3.3%)	3 (3.1%)	0	0	0
Macular fibrosis	8 (7.3%)	6 (10.0%)	4 (4.1%)	3 (5.3%)	2 (2.2%)	4 (7.7%)
Macular edema	21 (19.1%)	2 (3.3%)	33 (34.0%)	7 (12.3%)	21 (23.1%)	2 (3.8%)
Maculopathy	6 (5.5%)	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	0
Ocular hyperemia	4 (3.6%)	0	2 (2.1%)	1 (1.8%)	4 (4.4%)	1 (1.9%)
Optic disc hemorrhage	3 (2.7%)	0	2 (2.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Optic disc hyperemia	1 (0.9%)	0	2 (2.1%)	0	0	0
Optic disc vascular disorder	8 (7.3%)	5 (8.3%)	2 (2.1%)	3 (5.3%)	0	0

System organ class, Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	COPERNICUS		GALILEO			
	Week 24 to Week 100		Week 24 to Week 52		Week 52 to Week 76	
	Aflibercept +PRN N=110	SHAM+PRN N=60	Aflibercept +PRN N=97	SHAM N=57	Aflibercept +PRN N= 91	SHAM+PRN N= 52
Posterior capsule opacification	3 (2.7%)	0	0	0	0	1 (1.9%)
Punctate keratitis	2 (1.8%)	3 (5.0%)	1 (1.0%)	0	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.9%)
Retinal aneurysm	4 (3.6%)	3 (5.0%)	(%)	(%)	2 (2.2%)	0
Retinal degeneration	3 (2.7%)	4 (6.7%)	3 (3.5%)	2 (3.5%)	0	1 (1.9%)
Retinal exudates	7 (6.4%)	5 (8.3%)	3 (3.1%)	4 (7.0%)	1 (1.1%)	0
Retinal hemorrhage	15 (13.6%)	8 (13.3%)	7 (7.2%)	4 (7.0%)	7 (7.7%)	3 (5.8%)
Retinal ischemia	0	0	3 (3.1%)	3 (5.3%)	1 (1.1%)	0
Retinal edema	3 (2.7%)	0	0	1 (1.8%)	0	0
Retinal pigment epitheliopathy	4 (3.6%)	12 (20.0%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	2 (3.8%)
Retinal vascular disorder	9 (8.2%)	3 (5.0%)	9 (9.3%)	3 (5.3%)	1 (1.1%)	3 (5.8%)
Retinal vein occlusion	5 (4.5%)	0	5 (5.2%)	0	2 (2.2%)	0
Visual acuity reduced	30 (27.3%)	8 (13.3%)	11 (11.3%)	2 (3.5%)	9 (9.9%)	1 (1.9%)
Visual impairment	2 (1.8%)	0	4 (4.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Vitreous detachment	8 (7.3%)	3 (5.0%)	2 (2.1%)	0	3 (3.3%)	0
Vitreous hemorrhage	2 (1.8%)	4 (6.7%)	2 (2.1%)	1 (1.8%)	0	1 (1.9%)
<b>Gastrointestinal Disorders</b>						
Abdominal pain	0	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Constipation	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Diarrhea	2 (1.8%)	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0	2 (3.8%)
Dyspepsia	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	0
Dysphagia	0	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Gastritis	0	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Nausea	5 (4.5%)	0	0	3 (5.3%)	0	0
Toothache	1 (0.9%)	0	1 (1.0%)	0	2 (2.2%)	0
Vomiting	1 (0.9%)	1 (1.7%)	0	3 (5.3%)	1 (1.1%)	0
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>						
Pyrexia	2 (1.8%)	3 (5.0%)	0	2 (3.5%)	0	0

System organ class, Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	COPERNICUS		GALILEO			
	Week 24 to Week 100		Week 24 to Week 52		Week 52 to Week 76	
	Aflibercept +PRN N=110	SHAM+PRN N=60	Aflibercept +PRN N=97	SHAM N=57	Aflibercept +PRN N= 91	SHAM+PRN N= 52
<b>Immune System Disorders</b>						
Drug hypersensitivity	0	4 (6.7%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	0
Seasonal allergy	3 (2.7%)	3 (5.0%)	0	1 (1.8%)	0	0
<b>Infections and Infestations</b>						
Bronchitis	5 (4.5%)	3 (5.0%)	4 (4.1%)	0	0	1 (1.9%)
Herpes zoster	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	1 (1.8%)	0	0
Influenza	7 (6.4%)	3 (5.0%)	5 (5.2%)	1 (1.8%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.9%)
Nasopharyngitis	6 (5.5%)	3 (5.0%)	10 (10.3%)	11 (19.3%)	4 (4.4%)	2 (3.8%)
Pharyngitis	3 (2.7%)	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3 (2.7%)	5 (8.3%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0	0
Tooth infection	3 (2.7%)	0	0	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Upper respiratory tract infection	6 (5.5%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Urinary tract infection	5 (4.5%)	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0	0
<b>Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications</b>						
Accident	1 (0.9%)	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0
Contusion	1 (0.9%)	1 (1.7%)	0	2 (3.5%)	0	1 (1.9%)
Fall	3 (2.7%)	4 (6.7%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.8%)	0	0
<b>Investigations</b>						
Blood glucose increased	3 (2.7%)	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0
Blood pressure increased	1 (0.9%)	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0
Blood pressure systolic increased	1 (0.9%)	4 (6.7%)	0	0	0	0
Blood urine present	2 (1.8%)	4 (6.7%)	0	0	0	0
Glucose urine present	2 (1.8%)	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0
Intraocular pressure increased	10 (9.1%)	11 (18.3%)	13 (13.4%)	2 (3.5%)	0	0
Lymphocyte count decreased	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Protein urine present	4 (3.6%)	5 (8.3%)	0	1 (1.8%)	0	0
Visual acuity tests abnormal	4 (3.6%)	2 (3.3%)	5 (5.2%)	0	0	0
<b>Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders</b>						
Diabetes mellitus	3 (2.7%)	0	1 (1.0%)	0	0	0
Hypercholesterolemia	1 (0.9%)	3 (5.0%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	2 (3.8%)
Hypokalemia	0	3 (5.0%)	0	0	0	0

System organ class, Preferred term MedDRA Version 14.1	COPERNICUS		GALILEO			
	Week 24 to Week 100		Week 24 to Week 52		Week 52 to Week 76	
	Aflibercept+PRN N=110	SHAM+PRN N=60	Aflibercept +PRN N=97	SHAM N=57	Aflibercept+PRN N= 91	SHAM+PRN N= 52
<b>Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders</b>						
Arthralgia	4 (3.6%)	2 (3.3%)	2 (2.1%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (2.2%)	0
Back pain	4 (3.6%)	0	3 (3.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Bursitis	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
Osteoarthritis	3 (2.7%)	4 (6.7%)	1 (1.0%)	0	2 (2.2%)	0
Pain in extremity	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.0%)	0	0	0
<b>Nervous System Disorders</b>						
Syncope	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.0%)	2 (3.5%)	0	0
<b>Psychiatric Disorders</b>						
Anxiety	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
<b>Renal and Urinary Disorders</b>						
Renal failure acute	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
<b>Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders</b>						
Hypoxia	0	2 (3.3%)	0	0	0	0
<b>Vascular Disorders</b>						
Hypertension	13 (11.8%)	9 (15.0%)	4 (4.1%)	4 (7.0%)	3 (3.3%)	2 (3.8%)

PRN: As needed (*pro re nata*)

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

### Treatment of BRVO

A total of 183 patients constituted the safety population in the aflibercept BRVO study (VIBRANT).

Patients in the aflibercept group (n=91) received aflibercept 2 mg, monthly up to week 24 and then received aflibercept every 2 months up to week 52. Patients in the laser control group received grid laser photocoagulation treatment at day 1 followed by sham injections monthly up to Week 24.

Subjects in the laser arm became eligible for rescue treatment with aflibercept at week 24, and if pre-specified criteria were met, received 3 monthly 2 mg aflibercept, followed by 2 mg every two months. 67 patients in the laser control group received aflibercept rescue treatment after week 24.

The most common adverse reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) which have been assessed as having reasonable or suspected relationship to either the study drug or the injection procedure in the BRVO study (VIBRANT) are presented in Table 7.

**Table 7 – Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) in BRVO Study (VIBRANT; Baseline to Week 24 and Week 24 to Week 52 weeks)**

Preferred term MedDRA version 17.0	Aflibercept (N=91)	Laser (N=92)	Aflibercept (N=85)	Laser (N=83)	Aflibercept Total <sup>b</sup> (N=152)
	Baseline to Week 24		Week 24 to Week 52 <sup>a</sup>		
Conjunctival hemorrhage	19.8%	4.3%	10.6%	13.3%	11.2%
Eye pain	4.4%	5.4%	1.2%	3.6%	2.0%
Foreign body sensation in eyes	3.3%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Lacrimation increased	3.3%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Cataract	2.2%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Corneal epithelium defect	2.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Intraocular pressure increased	2.2%	0%	2.4%	1.2%	2.0%
Ocular hyperemia	2.2%	2.2%	0%	1.2%	0%
Vitreous detachment	2.2%	0%	0%	2.4%	1.3%
Vitreous floaters	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Vision blurred	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	2.4%	2.0%
Eyelid edema	1.1%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Cataract cortical	1.1%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Cataract subcapsular	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cataract traumatic	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Injection site pain	1.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Corneal abrasion	0%	0%	2.4%	1.2%	2.0%
Punctate keratitis	0%	0%	1.2%	0%	0.7%
Hypersensitivity	0%	1.1%	1.2%	0%	0.7%

a As randomized in the BRVO (VIBRANT) study. Due to the study design, patients in the control (laser) arm may have received aflibercept and patients randomized to the aflibercept arm may have received laser treatment

b Aflibercept Total = all patients who received at least one active aflibercept including patients who were previously in the laser control arm.

Note: Ocular ADR consider TEAE in study eye only. Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

### ***Treatment of DME***

The data described in [Table 8](#) reflect exposure to aflibercept in two randomized, double-blind, laser controlled Phase III studies in (2Q4 n =291, 2Q8 n=287; laser: n=287) patients with up to 52 weeks of exposure to aflibercept injection.

The data described in [Table 9](#) reflect ADRs in two randomized, double blind, laser-controlled Phase III studies in patients with up to 100 weeks of exposure to aflibercept injection. 687 patients were treated at least once with 2mg aflibercept.

**Table 8 – Adverse Reactions with Incidence rate  $\geq 1\%$  in either aflibercept treatment arms in at least one study (VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies; 52 week data)<sup>a</sup>**

System/Organ Class Preferred Term (MedDRA Version 17.0)	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>			VISTA <sup>DME</sup>		
	Control (laser) (N=133)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=136)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=135)	Control (laser) (N=154)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=155)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=152)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>						
Conjunctival hemorrhage	2.3%	22.8%	23.0%	30.5%	37.4%	27.6%
Eye pain	2.3%	6.6%	2.2%	9.7%	14.2%	11.8%
Vitreous floaters	0.8%	4.4%	1.5%	5.2%	9.7%	7.2%
Vitreous detachment	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	5.2%	4.5%	5.9%
Cataract	3.8%	2.9%	5.9%	6.5%	7.1%	3.9%
Foreign body sensation in eyes	1.5%	0.7%	3.0%	4.5%	5.2%	3.3%
Ocular hyperemia	0.8%	1.5%	4.4%	7.1%	3.9%	3.3%
Cataract cortical	0	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	0.6%	2.6%
Cataract subcapsular	0	1.5%	0.7%	2.6%	1.3%	2.6%
Lacrimation increased	0	3.7%	2.2%	3.2%	4.5%	2.0%
Vision blurred	0.8%	0	1.5%	3.2%	5.2%	2.0%
Eyelid edema	1.5%	0	0.7%	0.6%	0	1.3%
Punctate keratitis	1.5%	3.7%	4.4%	0.6%	2.6%	1.3%
Conjunctival hyperemia	3.0%	2.2%	0.7%	0	1.9%	0.7%
Vitreous hemorrhage	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	5.2%	4.5%	0.7%
Cataract nuclear	1.5%	0	1.5%	2.6%	1.3%	0
Corneal erosion	1.5%	2.2%	3.7%	0	0	0
Retinal detachment	0.8%	0	1.5%	0	0	0
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>						
Injection site pain	0.8%	1.5%	1.5%	0	2.6%	1.3%
<b>Immune system disorders</b>						
Hypersensitivity	0	2.6%	0	0	0	0

System/Organ Class Preferred Term (MedDRA Version 17.0)	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>			VISTA <sup>DME</sup>		
	Control (laser) (N=133)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=136)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=135)	Control (laser) (N=154)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=155)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=152)
<b>Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications</b>						
Corneal abrasion	0	0	0	2.6%	1.9%	2.6%
<b>Investigations</b>						
Intraocular pressure increased	6.8%	8.8%	4.4%	0.6%	3.2%	3.9%

a As randomized in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study. Due to the study design, beginning at week 24, if criteria were met, patients in the control (laser) arm may have received aflibercept (2Q8) and patients randomized to the aflibercept arm may have received laser treatment  
Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

**Table 9 – Adverse Reactions with Incidence rate ≥1% reported in the DME Phase III studies (VISTA<sup>DME</sup> and VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, 100 weeks)<sup>a</sup>**

System/Organ Class Preferred Term (MedDRA Version 17.0)	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>			VISTA <sup>DME</sup>		
	Control (laser) (N=133)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=136)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=135)	Control (laser) (N=154)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (N=155)	Aflibercept 2Q8 (N=152)
<b>Eye Disorders</b>						
Conjunctival hemorrhage	5.3%	26.5%	24.4%	34.4%	40.6%	31.6%
Vitreous detachment	2.3%	2.9%	4.4%	9.7%	9.0%	14.5%
Eye pain	4.5%	8.1%	5.2%	13.0%	14.8%	13.8%
Vitreous floaters	1.5%	6.6%	1.5%	9.1%	13.5%	11.2%
Cataract	6.0%	11.0%	13.3 %	11.0%	13.5%	8.6%
Cataract subcapsular	0.8%	5.1%	2.2%	4.5%	3.9%	5.3%
Punctate keratitis	3.0%	4.4%	5.2%	0.6%	3.2%	4.6%
Cataract cortical	0	4.4%	3.7%	5.2%	1.3%	4.6%
Lacrimation increased	0	4.4%	2.2%	3.9%	4.5%	3.9%
Ocular hyperemia	1.5%	2.2%	4.4%	7.8%	3.9%	3.9%
Vision blurred	1.5%	0.7%	1.5%	6.5%	7.1%	3.9%
Foreign body sensation in eyes	1.5%	1.5%	3.0%	5.2%	5.2%	3.3%
Eyelid edema	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0	2.0%
Vitreous hemorrhage	4.5%	2.9%	3.0%	9.1%	6.5%	2.0%
Cataract nuclear	3.0%	1.5%	3.0%	3.9%	3.2%	1.3%
Corneal epithelium defect	0	0	0	0.6%	0	1.3%
Conjunctival hyperemia	3.8%	3.7%	0.7%	0.6%	1.9%	0.7%
Corneal erosion	3.0%	2.2%	3.7%	0	0.6%	0
Iridocyclitis	0	0	0.7%	0	1.3%	0
Lenticular opacities	1.5%	1.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0	0
Retinal detachment	0.8%	0	1.5%	0	0.6%	0
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>						
Injection site pain	0.8%	1.5%	2.2%	0.6%	2.6%	1.3%
<b>Immune system disorders</b>						
Hypersensitivity	0	0	0	0	2.6%	0.7%
<b>Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications</b>						
Corneal abrasion	0	0	0	3.9%	2.6%	3.9%
<b>Investigations</b>						
Intraocular pressure increased	8.3%	15.4%	7.4%	1.3%	7.7%	6.6%

a As randomized in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study. Due to the study design, beginning at week 24, if criteria were met, patients in the control (laser) arm may have received aflibercept (2Q8) and patients randomized to the aflibercept arm may have received laser treatment

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

### Treatment of myopic CNV

A total of 122 patients from Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong constituted the safety population in the aflibercept myopic CNV study (MYRROR).

Patients in the aflibercept group (n=91) received aflibercept injection 2 mg administered once at study start and then as needed (PRN) up to week 44.

Patients in the sham arm (n=31) received sham injections every 4 weeks through Week 20. Patients in the sham arm received a mandatory first dose of aflibercept at week 24, followed by additional aflibercept injections, if pre-specified criteria were met, up to Week 44.

The most common adverse reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) in the MYRROR study are presented in [Table 10](#).

**Table 10 – Adverse Reactions with Incidence Rate  $\geq 1\%$  in Patients Treated with aflibercept or Sham (MYRROR, baseline up to 48 weeks)**

System/Organ Class Preferred Term MedDRA Version 16.0	Aflibercept <sup>a</sup>	Sham <sup>b</sup>	Aflibercept <sup>a</sup>	Sham+Aflibercept <sup>c</sup>
	(n=91) %	(n=31) %	(n=91) %	(n=31) %
	Baseline to Week 24		Baseline to Week 48	
<b>Eye disorders</b>				
Cataract subcapsular	0	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Conjunctival haemorrhage	6 (6.6%)	1 (3.2%)	10 (11.0%)	1 (3.2%)
Corneal erosion	2 (2.2%)	1 (3.2%)	2 (2.2%)	1 (3.2%)
Eye pain	6 (6.6%)	1 (3.2%)	7 (7.7%)	1 (3.2%)
Ocular hyperaemia	2 (2.2%)	1 (3.2%)	2 (2.2%)	1 (3.2%)
Punctate keratitis	4 (4.4%)	3 (9.7%)	6 (6.6%)	3 (9.7%)
Retinal detachment excluding LLT subretinal fluid	0	1 (3.2%)	0	1 (3.2%)
Retinal detachment including LLT subretinal fluid	0	1 (3.2%)	0	1 (3.2%)
Retinal tear	1 (1.1%)	0	1 (1.1%)	0
Vitreous floaters	0	0	1 (1.1%)	0

a Aflibercept administered at baseline and additional injection in case of disease persistence or recurrence

b Received sham injections every 4 weeks through Week 20

c Mandatory injection of aflibercept at Week 24, thereafter additional injection in case of disease persistence or recurrence

Note: Patients are only counted once in each row but may appear in more than one row.

### 8.3 Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Less common adverse reactions reported in  $<1\%$  of the patients treated with aflibercept in the Phase III studies (pooled data of the Phase III studies for wet AMD (96 weeks), CRVO (100 weeks), BRVO (52 weeks) and DME (100 weeks)) are listed below.

**Eye Disorders:** abnormal sensation in eye, anterior chamber flare, cataract traumatic, corneal edema, corneal epithelium defect, eyelid irritation, iridocyclitis, iritis, lenticular opacities, retinal detachment, retinal tear, uveitis, vitritis.

**General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions:** injection site irritation

**Immune System Disorders:** hypersensitivity

**Infections and Infestations:** endophthalmitis<sup>1</sup>, hypopyon

There were no less common adverse reactions reported in <1% of patients treated with aflibercept in the myopic CNV Phase III study (48 weeks).

#### **8.4 Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data**

##### **Clinical Trial Findings**

There were no hematologic or clinical chemistry ADRs seen in Phase III wet AMD and DME studies.

There were no trends indicating an association with aflibercept injection and the development of clinically significant abnormal hematologic and clinical chemistry in the Phase III CRVO, BRVO, and myopic CNV studies.

#### **8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions**

**Eye Disorder:** scleritis, episcleritis, blindness

**Immune system disorders:** severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** pruritus, rash, urticaria

## **9 DRUG INTERACTIONS**

### **9.2 Drug Interactions Overview**

No formal drug interaction studies have been performed with aflibercept. Ahzantive must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

Adjunctive use of verteporfin photodynamic therapy (PDT) and aflibercept has not been studied.

The safety and efficacy of wet AMD patients who were previously treated with laser photocoagulation have not been studied.

### **9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions**

Interactions with other drugs have not been established.

### **9.5 Drug-Food Interactions**

Interactions with food have not been established.

### **9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions**

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

### **9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions**

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

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<sup>1</sup> Culture positive and culture negative endophthalmitis

## 10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 10.1 Mechanism of Action

Vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) and placental growth factor (PlGF) are members of the VEGF family of pro-angiogenic factors that can act as potent mitogenic, chemotactic, and vascular permeability factors for endothelial cells. VEGF acts via 2 receptor tyrosine kinases, VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2, present on the surface of endothelial cells. PlGF binds only to VEGFR-1, which is also present on the surface of leukocytes. Excessive activation of these receptors by VEGF-A can result in pathological neovascularization and excessive vascular permeability which is believed to contribute to vision loss in a variety of ocular diseases.

Aflibercept acts as a soluble decoy receptor that binds VEGF-A and PlGF with higher affinity than their natural receptors, and thereby can inhibit the binding and activation of these cognate VEGF receptors.

### 10.2 Pharmacodynamics

#### *Treatment of wet AMD*

Data on pharmacodynamics effect of aflibercept, measured by central retinal thickness (CRT) and change in choroidal neovascularization (CNV) area, showed variable results across Phase I and Phase II studies. In the Phase III studies (VIEW1 and VIEW2), similar results on decrease in mean CNV area and CRT from baseline to Week 52 were reported for all 3 aflibercept treatment groups (0.5Q4, 2Q4, 2Q8). At Week 52 in VIEW 1, the mean change from baseline in CRT (aflibercept 2Q8 and aflibercept 2Q4 vs. ranibizumab 0.5Q4) was -130 and -121 microns vs. -129 microns, and at Week 96, was -121 and -108 microns vs. -114 microns, respectively. At Week 52 in VIEW 2, the mean change from baseline in CRT (aflibercept 2Q8 and aflibercept 2Q4 vs. ranibizumab 0.5Q4) was -149 and -157 microns vs. -139 microns, and at Week 96/100, was -145 and -146 microns vs. -121 microns, respectively.

#### *Treatment of CRVO*

Reductions in mean retinal thickness (microns, aflibercept vs. Sham) were observed in GALILEO (-449 vs. -169) and COPERNICUS (-457 vs. -145) at week 24 compared to baseline. However, the clinical relevance of these data is yet to be determined.

#### *Treatment of BRVO*

At week 24 the mean changes in retinal thickness in the aflibercept vs. the laser group were -280 microns vs. -128 microns.

#### *Treatment of DME*

##### **VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies**

A reduction in CRT was observed in patients treated with aflibercept in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> DME clinical trials. At Week 52 in VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, the mean change from baseline in CRT (aflibercept 2Q8 and aflibercept 2Q4 vs. Control) was -192.4 microns and -195.0 microns vs. -66.2 microns, and at Week 100, was -195.8 microns and -211.8 microns vs. -85.7 microns. At Week 52 in VISTA<sup>DME</sup>, the mean change from baseline in CRT (aflibercept 2Q8 and aflibercept 2Q4 vs. Control) was -183.1 microns and -185.9 microns vs. -73.3 microns, and at Week 100, was -191.1 microns and -191.4 microns vs. -83.9 microns.

#### **VIOLET Study**

At week 52 of the study, i.e. second year of treatment, the mean changes in CRT for treat-and-extend

(2T&E), pro re nata (2PRN) and 2Q8 were -2.1, 2.2 and -18.8 microns, respectively.

At week 100 of the study, i.e. third year of treatment, the mean changes in CRT for 2T&E, 2PRN and 2Q8 were 2.3, -13.9 and -15.5 microns, respectively.

#### **Treatment of myopic CNV**

In patients treated with aflibercept (one injection given at start of therapy, additional injection given in case of disease persistence or recurrence) retinal thickness was assessed by Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). The mean change in CRT (microns, aflibercept vs. Sham) from baseline to week 24 was -79 vs. -4. The mean change in CRT through Week 48 was -83 vs. -57.

### **10.3 Pharmacokinetics**

Aflibercept is administered directly into the vitreous to exert local effects in the eye.

#### **Absorption:**

Following intravitreal administration of aflibercept, a fraction of the administered dose is expected to bind with free endogenous VEGF to form an inactive VEGF: aflibercept complex in the eye. From the ocular space, free and bound aflibercept are slowly absorbed into the systemic circulation where it is predominately observed as the inactive stable complex with VEGF; however, only "free aflibercept" is able to bind endogenous VEGF. Peak plasma concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) of free aflibercept are reached within 1 to 3 days after administration.

#### **Distribution:**

In a pharmacokinetic substudy with frequent sampling in wAMD patients, maximum plasma concentrations of free aflibercept (systemic  $C_{max}$ ) were low, with a mean of approximately 0.02 microgram/mL (range 0 to 0.054 microgram/mL) within 1 to 3 days after a 2 mg intravitreal injection, and were undetectable 2 weeks following dosage in almost all patients. Aflibercept does not accumulate in the plasma when administered intravitreally every 4 weeks.

It is estimated that after intravitreal administration of 2 mg to patients, the mean maximum plasma concentration of free aflibercept is more than a 100 fold lower than the concentration of aflibercept required to half-maximally bind systemic VEGF (2.91 microgram/mL) in a study of healthy volunteers.

These pharmacokinetic results were consistent in pharmacokinetic sub-studies in patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME, and myopic CNV with mean  $C_{max}$  of free aflibercept in plasma in the range of 0.03 to 0.05 microgram/mL. Plasma concentrations of free aflibercept declined to values below or close to the lower limit of quantitation generally within one week; undetectable concentrations were reached after two weeks in all patients.

#### **Metabolism:**

As aflibercept is a protein-based therapeutic, no metabolism studies have been conducted.

#### **Elimination:**

Aflibercept is expected to be eliminated through both binding to endogenous VEGF and a slower non-saturable clearance (e.g., proteolysis) mechanism.

#### **Special Populations and Conditions**

- **Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):** Wet AMD does not occur in children or adolescents. The safety and efficacy of aflibercept have not been studied in pediatric patients in the indications wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME, and myopic CNV.

- **Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age):** No special considerations are needed.
- **Hepatic Insufficiency:** No specific studies in patients with hepatic impairment were conducted with aflibercept.
- **Renal Insufficiency:** No special studies in patients with renal impairment were conducted with aflibercept. Pharmacokinetic analysis of wet AMD patients in the VIEW2 study, of which 40% had renal impairment (24% mild, 15% moderate, and 1% severe), revealed no differences with respect to plasma concentrations of active drug after intravitreal administration every 4 or 8 weeks.

Similar results were seen in patients with CRVO in the GALILEO study.

Pharmacokinetic analysis of DME patients in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, of which 47% had renal impairment (35% mild, 10% moderate, and 2% severe), detected no difference in free aflibercept concentrations in patients with different renal function.

Similar results were seen in patients with myopic CNV in the MYRROR study.

#### 10.4 Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity with aflibercept (see [Immunogenicity](#)).

### 11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Store in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze.

Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

### 12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

#### THE VIAL IS FOR SINGLE USE IN ONE EYE ONLY.

Prior to administration visually inspect the solution for injection. Do not use the vial if particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible.

Prior to usage, unopened vial of Ahzantive may be stored below room temperature (25°C) for up to 24 hours. After opening the vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.

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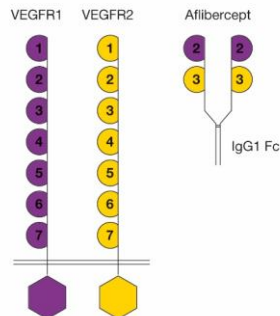
## PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### 13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

#### Drug Substance

<b>Proper name:</b>	Aflibercept
<b>Chemical name:</b>	des-432-lysine-[human vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 1-(103-204)-peptide (containing Ig-like C2-type 2 domain) fusion protein with human vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2-(206-308)-peptide (containing Ig-like C2-type 3 domain fragment) fusion protein with human immunoglobulin G1-(227 C-terminal residues)-peptide (Fc fragment)], (211-211':214-214')-bisdisulfide dimer
<b>Molecular formula:</b>	$C_{4318}H_{6788}N_{1164}O_{1304}S_{32}$
<b>Molecular weight:</b>	Without glycolisation: 97 kDa With glycolisation: 115 kDa

#### Structural formula:



**Physicochemical properties:** Aflibercept is a dimeric glycoprotein. The solution for intravitreal administration is a sterile, clear, and colourless to pale yellow, iso-osmotic solution.

**pH:** 6.2

#### Product Characteristics:

Ahzantive (aflibercept injection) is a recombinant fusion protein consisting of portions of human Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) receptor 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1 and formulated as an iso-osmotic solution for intravitreal administration. Aflibercept is produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

## 14 CLINICAL TRIALS

### 14.5 Clinical Trials - Reference Biologic Drug

#### Treatment of Wet AMD

##### VIEW1 and VIEW2 Studies

The safety and efficacy of aflibercept were assessed in 2 randomized, multi-center, double-blind, active-controlled studies in patients with wet AMD. VIEW1 was conducted in Canada and the United States of America. VIEW2 was conducted in Europe, Latin America and Asia. A total of 2412 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (1817 with aflibercept injection) in the 2 Phase III studies (VIEW1 and VIEW2). In each study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 4 dosing regimens.

Administration in 2 of the aflibercept arms was every 4 weeks, and in the third arm, administration was extended to a longer dosing interval of every 8 weeks:

- 1) Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses (aflibercept 2Q8),
- 2) Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4),
- 3) Aflibercept administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 0.5Q4), and
- 4) Ranibizumab administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (ranibizumab 0.5Q4)

In the second year of the studies, patients continued to receive the dosage strength to which they were initially randomized but on a modified dosing schedule guided by pre-specified retreatment criteria with a protocol-defined maximum dosing interval of 12 weeks:

- Increase in central retinal thickness (CRT) of  $\geq 100$   $\mu\text{m}$  compared to the lowest previous value as measured by optical coherence tomography (OCT), or
- A loss from the best previous letter score of  $\geq 5$  Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) letters in conjunction with recurrent fluid as indicated by OCT, or
- New or persistent fluid as indicated by OCT, or
- New onset classic neovascularization, or
- New or persistent leak on fluorescein angiography (FA), or
- New macular hemorrhage, or
- 12 weeks have elapsed since the previous injection.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who maintained vision (i.e., loss of fewer than 15 letters of BCVA compared to Baseline) at Week 52. The non-inferiority margin was 10%. The secondary efficacy variables included changes from Baseline to Week 52 in (1) BCVA (ETDRS letter score); (2) the proportion of patients who gained 15 or more letters; (3) total NEI VFQ-25 (National Eye Institute 25-item Visual Function Questionnaire) score; and (4) CNV (choroidal neovascularisation) area as assessed by fluorescein angiography (FA).

Patients ranged in age from 49 to 99 years (with a mean of 76 years) with primarily active subfoveal CNV lesions secondary to wet AMD, also including juxtafoveal lesions, as seen on FA. In the clinical studies, approximately 89% (1616/1817) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were

65 years of age or older and approximately 63% (1139/1817) were 75 years of age or older.

**Table 11 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in wet AMD**

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
VIEW1	randomized, multi-center, double-blind, active-controlled	Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses (aflibercept 2Q8),</li> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4),</li> <li>Aflibercept administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept - 0.5Q4), and</li> <li>Ranibizumab administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (ranibizumab 0.5Q4)</li> </ul> 96 week study	Aflibercept 2Q8: n=303 Aflibercept 2Q4: n=304 Aflibercept 0.5Q4: n=304 Ranibizumab 0.5mgQ4: n=306	78.1 (49-99 years)	Male: 41.2% Female: 58.5%
VIEW2			Aflibercept 2Q8: n=313 Aflibercept 2Q4: n=313 Aflibercept 0.5Q4: n=311 Ranibizumab 0.5mg Q4: n=303	73.9 (50-93 years)	Male: 44.5% Female: 55.5%

**Table 12 – Efficacy Outcomes at Week 52; VIEW1 and VIEW2 Studies (wet AMD)**

Efficacy Outcomes	VIEW1			VIEW2		
	Aflibercept 2 mg Q8 <sup>a</sup>	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4	Aflibercept 2 mg Q8 <sup>a</sup>	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg Q4
Per Protocol Set	N=265	N=285	N=269	N=270	N=274	N=269
Proportion of patients who maintained visual acuity (%) (<15 letters of BCVA loss)	95.1%	95.1	94.4%	95.6%	95.6	94.4%
Difference <sup>b</sup> (%) (95% CI) <sup>c</sup>	0.7 (-3.1, 4.5) <sup>d</sup>	0.7 (-3.1, 4.4) <sup>d</sup>		1.1 (-2.6, 4.8) <sup>d</sup>	1.2 (-2.5, 4.9) <sup>d</sup>	
Full Analysis Set (FAS)	N=301	N=304	N=304	N=306	N=309	N=291
Mean number of active injections over 52 weeks	7.6	12.5	12.1	7.7	12.6	12.7
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from Baseline	7.9	10.9	8.1	8.9	7.6	9.4
Difference <sup>b</sup> in LS mean (95% CI) <sup>c</sup>	0.3 (-2.0, 2.5)	3.2 (0.9, 5.4)		-0.9 (-3.1, 1.3)	-1.9 (-4.1, 0.2)	
Patients who gained at least 15 letters of vision from baseline (%)	92 (30.6%)	114 (37.5%)	94 (30.9%)	96 (31.4%)	91 (29.5%)	99 (34.0%)
Difference <sup>b</sup> (%) (95% CI) <sup>c</sup>	-0.4 (-7.7, 7.0)	6.6 (-1, 14.1)		-2.7 (-10.2, 4.9)	-4.6 (-12.2, 2.9)	

BCVA= Best Corrected Visual Acuity; CI= Confidence Interval; ETDRS= Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; LOCF= Last Observation Carried Forward (baseline values are not carried forward)

a After treatment initiation with 3 monthly doses

b Aflibercept group minus the ranibizumab group.

c 95.1% CI for VIEW1; the CI reflected an alpha adjustment of 0.1% to account for safety assessments of the data by an Independent Data Monitoring Committee

d A confidence interval lying entirely above -10% indicates a non-inferiority of aflibercept injection to ranibizumab.

### *52 Week Analyses*

In a sensitivity analysis where dropouts were counted as non-responders (regardless of the time of when the dropouts occurred and the patient's visual acuity outcome at the time of dropout), the proportion of patients who maintained visual acuity for the aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4 and ranibizumab 0.5Q4 arms were 88.0%, 91.8%, and 87.8%, respectively, in VIEW1, and 88.6%, 86.1%, and 89.4%, respectively, in VIEW2.

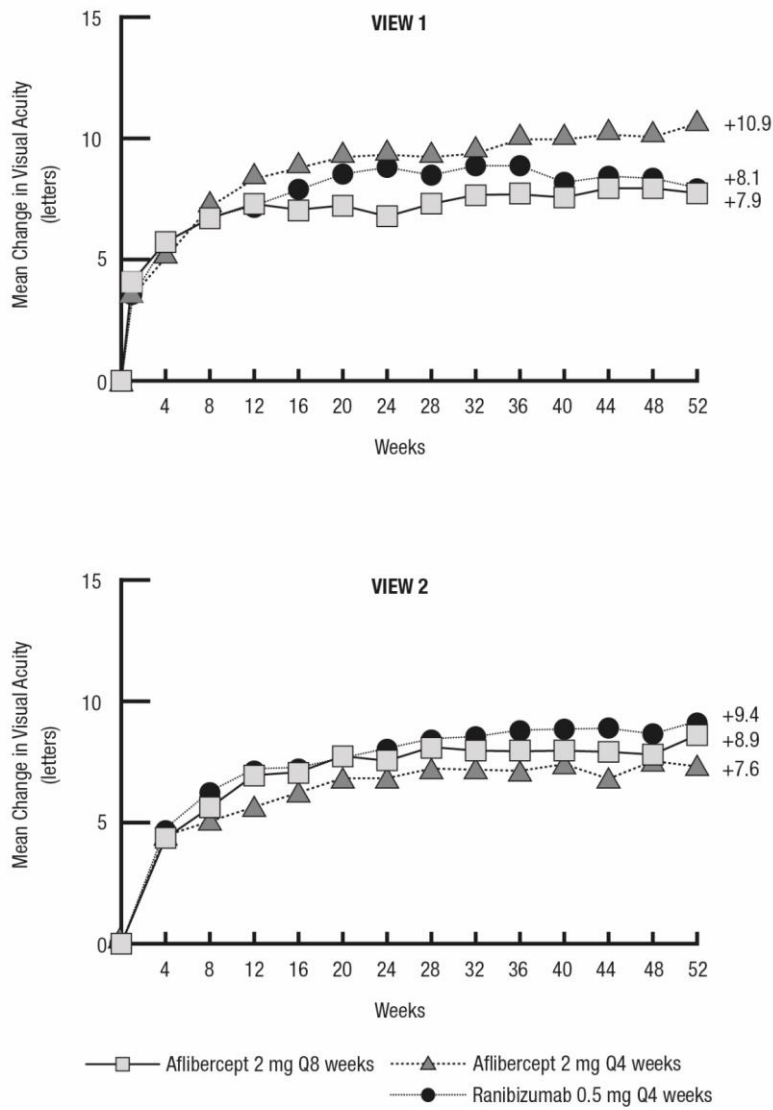
Across both Phase III studies, the aflibercept 2Q8 treatment group received less injections than the aflibercept 2Q4 and ranibizumab 0.5Q4 treatment groups (ie, mean [SD] of 7.6 [1.1], 12.3 [1.8] and 12.3 [1.9], respectively).

The proportion of patients who maintained vision in the aflibercept 2Q8 and in the aflibercept 2Q4 treatment arms were both shown to be non-inferior to ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks.

### *96 Week Analyses*

In the second year, the mean numbers of active injections in VIEW 1 were 4.3, 4.1 and 4.6 for the groups receiving aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and ranibizumab 0.5Q4, respectively. In VIEW2, the corresponding mean number of active injections was 4.0, 4.0, and 4.9, respectively. Ninety percent (90%) of patients originally treated with aflibercept 2Q8 or aflibercept 2Q4 received 6 doses or less. 72% and 78% respectively received 4 doses or less among those patients completing the second year of the studies. In VIEW1, the proportion of patients who maintained visual acuity was 91.4%, 93.1%, and 89.8% in the aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4 and ranibizumab 0.5Q4 treatment groups, respectively. In VIEW2, the corresponding results were 93.5%, 91.3% and 93.5%, respectively. In VIEW1, the mean change from baseline in BCVA was +7.1, +9.3, and +7.3 letters in the aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and ranibizumab 0.5Q4 groups, respectively; and +8.1 letters, +6.0 and +8.5 letters in VIEW2. In VIEW1, the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters of vision from baseline was 32.9%, 35.5%, and 30.6% in the aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4 and ranibizumab 0.5Q4 treatment groups, respectively; and 34.0%, 26.9%, and 32.7% in VIEW2.

**Figure 10 – Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Week 52; Data from the VIEW1 and VIEW2 studies**



### **ALTAIR Study**

ALTAIR was a 96 week exploratory open-label phase 4 study in 247 Japanese patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, designed to assess the efficacy and safety of aflibercept following two different adjustment intervals (2 weeks and 4 weeks) of a treat-and-extend dosing regimen.

All patients received 3 monthly doses of aflibercept 2 mg, followed by one injection after a 2 month interval. At week 16, patients were randomized 1:1 into two treatment groups:

- 1) Aflibercept treat-and-extend with 2-week adjustments and
- 2) Aflibercept treat-and-extend with 4-week adjustments.

Extension or shortening of the interval was decided based on visual and/or anatomic criteria defined by protocol.

The primary efficacy endpoint was mean change in BCVA from baseline to week 52.

At week 52, patients in the treat-and-extend arm with 2-week adjustments gained a mean of  $9.0 \pm 14.6$  (range: -62 to 46) letters from baseline.

### **ARIES Study**

ARIES was a 104-week multi-center, randomized, open-label, active-controlled study in patients in several countries including Canada, with treatment naïve wet AMD. Two hundred and eighty seven (287) patients were treated with the 3 consecutive monthly doses followed by a dose after 8 weeks. At the 16 week timepoint, 271 patients were randomized into two arms: patients randomized to the first arm were treated using treat-and-extend with 2-week adjustments to the end of 2 years (Early start), and patients randomized to the second arm continued with dosing every 8 weeks for the remainder of the first year, and then were treated using treat-and-extend with 2-week adjustments in the second year (Late start). The primary efficacy endpoint was the change in BCVA from week 16 (randomization) to week 104.

The change in mean BCVA from week 16 to week 104 was  $-2.1 \pm 11.4$  (range: -44 to 23) letters in the Early start treat-and-extend group and  $-0.4 \pm 8.4$  (range: -25 to 17) letters in the Late start treat-and-extend group.

### **Treatment of CRVO**

The safety and efficacy of aflibercept were assessed in two randomized, multi-center, double-masked, sham-controlled studies in patients with macular edema secondary to CRVO. A total of 358 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (217 with aflibercept injection) in the two studies COPERNICUS and GALILEO. In both studies, patients were randomly assigned in a 3:2 ratio to either 2 mg aflibercept administered every 4 weeks (2Q4) or the control group receiving sham injections every 4 weeks for a total of 6 injections for the first 24 weeks.

After 6 monthly injections, patients received treatment only if they met pre-specified retreatment criteria, except for patients in the control group in the GALILEO study who continued to receive sham (control to control) (see [Table 13](#)).

The pre-specified retreatment criteria were as follows:

- Greater than 50 micron increase in CRT compared to the lowest previous measurement as assessed by OCT

- New or persistent cystic retinal changes or subretinal fluid as assessed by OCT
- Persistent diffuse edema  $\geq$  250 microns in the central subfield as assessed by OCT
- Loss of five or more letters in BCVA compared to the best previous measurement in conjunction with any increase in CRT as assessed by OCT
- Increase of five or more letters in BCVA compared to the most recent previous assessment.

After 52 weeks, all patients received the treatment if they met pre-specified visual or anatomic retreatment criteria until week 76 (GALILEO study) or week 100 (COPERNICUS study).

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) at Week 24 compared to baseline. Secondary endpoints included change in visual acuity at Week 24 compared to baseline, the mean change in baseline central retinal thickness, the mean change in the baseline NEI VFQ-25 total score at Week 24 and the proportion of patients progressing to anterior segment neovascularization.

Patient ages ranged from 22 to 89 years with a mean of 64 years. In the CRVO studies, approximately 52% (112/217) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept injection were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 18% (38/217) were 75 years of age or older.

**Table 13 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in CRVO**

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
COPERNICUS	randomized, multi-center, double-masked, sham-controlled	Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4) up to week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg PRN</li> <li>• Sham injections every 4 weeks up to week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg PRN96 week study</li> </ul> 100 week study	Aflibercept: n= 114 Sham: n=74	66.3 (22-89 years)	Male: 57% Female: 43%

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
GALILEO		Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4) up to week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg PRN</li> <li>Sham injections every 4 weeks up to week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg PRN96 week study</li> </ul> 76 week study	Aflibercept: n= 104 Sham: n=68	61.5 (29-88 years)	Male: 55.6% Female: 44.4%

PRN=pro re nata (as needed)

Superiority of treatment with aflibercept injection versus treatment with sham injection was shown for the primary endpoint at 24 weeks in both the COPERNICUS and GALILEO studies. Rapid improvements in visual acuity were observed with aflibercept treatment as early as 4 weeks after the first aflibercept injection.

Results from the analysis of the COPERNICUS and GALILEO studies are shown in [Table 14](#) and [Figure 11](#) below:

**Table 14 – Efficacy Outcomes at Week 24 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in COPERNICUS and GALILEO Studies**

Efficacy Outcomes	COPERNICUS		GALILEO	
	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4 (N = 114)	Control (Sham) <sup>a</sup> (N = 73)	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4 (N = 103)	Control (Sham) <sup>a</sup> (N = 68)
Proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline <sup>b</sup>	56%	12%	60%	22%
Weighted difference (%) <sup>c,d</sup>	44.8%		38.3%	
(95% CI)	(33.0, 56.6)		(24.4, 52.1)	
p-value	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001	
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (SD)	17.3 (12.8)	-4.0 (18.0)	18.0 (12.2)	3.3 (14.1)
Difference in LS mean <sup>c,e</sup>	21.7		14.7	
(95% CI)	(17.4, 26.0)		(10.8, 18.7)	

Efficacy Outcomes	COPERNICUS		GALILEO	
	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4 (N = 114)	Control (Sham) <sup>a</sup> (N = 73)	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4 (N = 103)	Control (Sham) <sup>a</sup> (N = 68)
p-value	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001	

- a Control group received sham injections every 4 weeks (Q4)
- b Subjects who discontinued prior to week 24 and had less than 5 injections of study drug or sham were evaluated as non - responders; otherwise, missing values were imputed using LOCF analyses in COPERNICUS study. Subjects who discontinued from the study prior to Week 24 were judged as non-responders in GALILEO study.
- c Difference is aflibercept injection 2 mg Q4 weeks minus control
- d Difference and confidence interval (CI) are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category (> 20/200 and ≤ 20/200)
- e LS mean difference and confidence interval based on an ANCOVA model with factors treatment group, region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category (> 20/200 and ≤ 20/200)

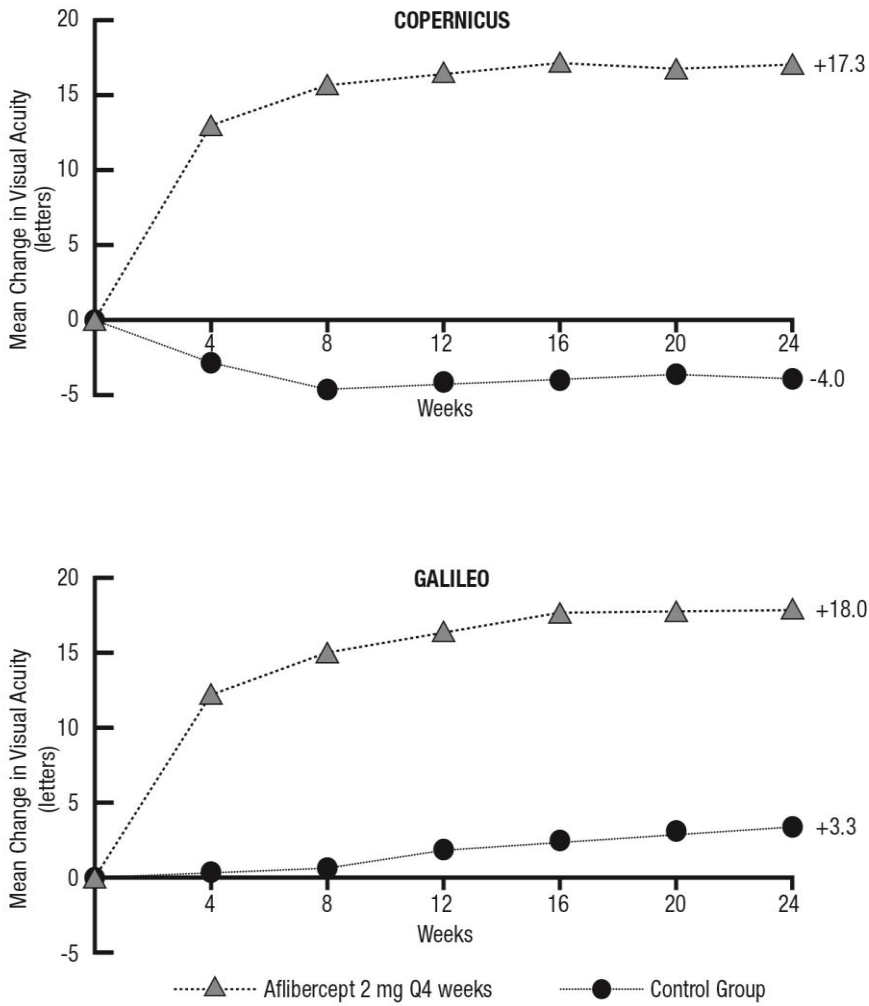
BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity; ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward; SD: Standard deviation; LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA

In the COPERNICUS study, at Week 52, the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline was 55% for the group receiving aflibercept and 30% for the group initially receiving sham treatment, and at Week 100, the proportions were 49.1% and 23.3% for the group receiving aflibercept and for the group initially receiving sham treatment, respectively. At Week 52, the mean improvement from baseline in BCVA was +16.2 letters for the group receiving aflibercept injection and +3.8 letters for the group initially receiving sham treatment, and at Week 100, the mean improvement were 13.0 and 1.5 letters for the group receiving aflibercept and for the group initially receiving sham treatment, respectively.

At Week 52 in the GALILEO study, the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline was 60% for the group receiving aflibercept and 32% for the group initially receiving sham treatment, and at Week 76, the proportions were 57.3% and 29.4% for the group receiving aflibercept and for the group initially receiving sham treatment, respectively. At Week 52, the mean improvement from baseline in BCVA was +16.9 letters for the group receiving aflibercept and +3.8 letters for the group initially receiving sham treatment, and at Week 76, the mean improvement were 13.7 and 6.2 letters for the group receiving aflibercept and for the group initially receiving sham treatment, respectively.

Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity, retinal perfusion status, and CRVO duration) in each study were in general consistent with the results in the overall populations.

Figure 11 – Mean change from baseline to Week 24 in best corrected visual acuity by treatment group for the COPERNICUS and GALILEO studies (Full Analysis Set, LOCF)



### Treatment of BRVO

The safety and efficacy of aflibercept (solution for intravitreal injection) were assessed in a randomized, multi-center, double-masked, active-controlled study in patients with macular edema secondary to BRVO. A total of 181 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (91 with aflibercept) in the VIBRANT study. In the study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to either 2 mg aflibercept injection administered every 4 weeks (2Q4) with a total of 6 injections or laser photocoagulation administered at baseline and subsequently as needed at and after week 12 (laser control group) (see [Table 15](#)).

After 6 monthly injections (week 24), patients in the aflibercept group received an injection every 2 months (8 weeks) up to week 52. Rescue laser treatment was permitted at week 36 if at least 1 rescue treatment criterion was met:

- >50 micron increase in CRT on OCT compared to the lowest previous measurement
- new or persistent cystic retinal changes or sub-retinal fluid on OCT or persistent diffuse edema in the central subfield on OCT
- a loss of  $\geq 5$  letters from the best previous measurement due to BRVO, in conjunction with any increase in retinal thickness in the central subfield on OCT from the best previous measurement.

For patients randomized to the laser control group, additional rescue laser treatment and rescue treatment with aflibercept starting at week 24 (3 monthly injections followed by an injection every 2 months) were also permitted if specific criteria (above) were met.

9 of 91 patients in the aflibercept group received laser therapy at week 36 and 67 of 90 patients in the laser group received aflibercept treatment after week 24.

Patient ages ranged from 42 to 94 years with a mean of 65 years. At baseline, 22% (20/91) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept had a retinal perfusion status classified as non-perfused. 19.8% patients in the aflibercept group and 16.3% of patients in the laser + aflibercept group discontinued the study prior to week 52.

In the VIBRANT study, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at Week 24 compared to baseline. Secondary endpoints efficacy analyses included change from baseline in BCVA score and change from baseline in CRT.

**Table 15 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trial in BRVO**

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
VIBRANT	randomized, multi-center, double-masked, active-controlled	Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4) up to week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks (aflibercept 2Q8). Rescue laser treatment was permitted at week 36 if rescue treatment criteria were met.</li> <li>Laser treatment at day 1 and sham injections every 4 weeks up to week 48</li> <li>Rescue treatment with aflibercept starting at week 24 was permitted if rescue treatment criteria were met.</li> </ul> 52 week study	Aflibercept: n= 91 Sham: n=92	66.5 (42-94 years)	Male: 54.1% Female: 45.9%

At week 24, the results of patients in the aflibercept group were shown superior to the laser control for the primary endpoint (the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24) and secondary endpoints of visual acuity (mean change from baseline in BCVA at week 24). A rapid gain in visual acuity was observed as early as one week after treatment initiation with aflibercept.

Results from the analysis of the VIBRANT study are shown in [Table 16](#) and [Figure 12](#) below:

**Table 16 – Efficacy Outcomes at Week 24 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in BRVO (VIBRANT study)**

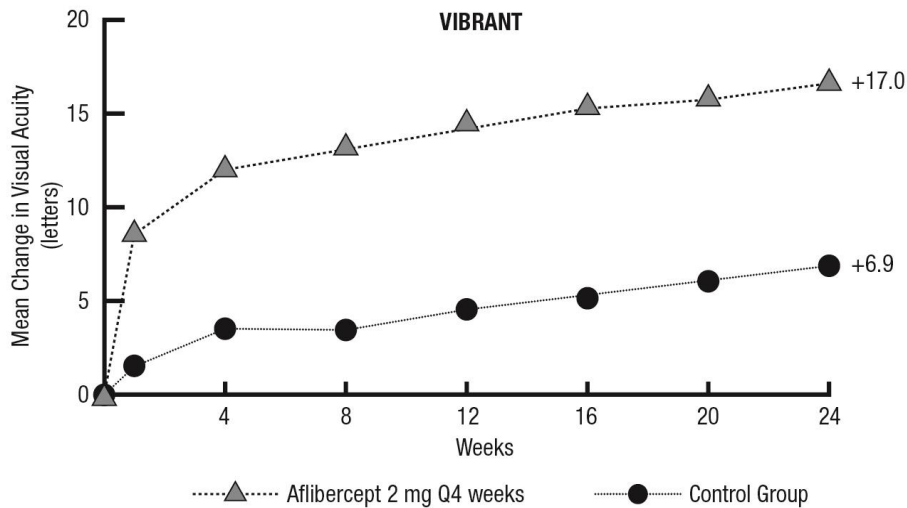
Efficacy Outcomes	Week 24	
	Aflibercept 2 mg Q4 (N = 91)	Control (Laser) <sup>a</sup> (N = 90)
Proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline <sup>b</sup>	52.7%	26.7%
Adjusted difference (%) <sup>b,c</sup>	26.6%	
(95% CI)	(13.0, 40.1)	
p-value <sup>d</sup>	p= 0.0003	
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (SD)	17.0 (11.9)	6.9 (12.9)
Difference in LS mean <sup>b,e</sup>	10.5	
(95% CI)	(7.1, 14.0)	
p-value	p < 0.0001	

a Control group received sham injections every 4 weeks (Q4)  
b Difference is aflibercept 2 mg Q4 weeks minus laser group  
c Difference and confidence interval (CI) were calculated using Mantel-Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted by regions (Japan vs North America) and baseline Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) (BCVA ≤20/200 and BCVA >20/200).  
d P-value was calculated using 2-sided Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test adjusted by regions (Japan vs North America) and baseline BCVA (BCVA ≤20/200 and BCVA >20/200).  
e LS mean difference and confidence interval (CI) and p-value were based on an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) model with baseline measurement as covariate and treatment group, region, and baseline Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) (BCVA ≤20/200 and BCVA >20/200) as fixed factors.  
BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity; ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward; SD: Standard deviation; LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA

In the VIBRANT study, at week 52, the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline was 57.1% for the group receiving aflibercept and 41.1% for the group initially receiving laser treatment. At week 52, the mean improvement from baseline in BCVA was +17.1 letters for the group receiving aflibercept and +12.2 letters for the group initially receiving laser treatment. At week 52, the mean change in CRT was -284 microns for the group receiving aflibercept and - 249 microns for the group initially receiving laser treatment.

Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, and baseline retinal perfusion status) in the study were in general consistent with the results in the overall populations.

**Figure 12 – Change From Baseline to Week 24 in Mean BCVA Score in BRVO (VIBRANT study) (LOCF) (Full Analysis Set)**



**Treatment of DME**

**VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies**

The safety and efficacy of aflibercept were assessed in two randomized, multi-center, double-blind, active-controlled studies in patients with DME (VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>). The VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study was conducted in Europe, Australia and Japan and the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study was conducted in the US. A total of 862 randomized and treated patients were evaluable for efficacy. Of those, 576 were randomized to the aflibercept groups in the two studies (see

**Table 17).** In each study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 treatment regimens:

- 1) Aflibercept administered 2 mg every 8 weeks following 5 initial monthly injections (aflibercept 2Q8);
- 2) Aflibercept administered 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4); and
- 3) Macular laser photocoagulation (active control laser).

Beginning at week 24, patients meeting a pre-specified threshold of vision loss were eligible to receive additional treatment: patients in the aflibercept groups could receive laser and patients in the control (laser) group could receive aflibercept.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the mean change from baseline in BCVA at Week 52 as measured by ETDRS letter score. The key secondary efficacy endpoints included proportion of patients who gained  $\geq 10$  or  $\geq 15$  ETDRS letters from baseline to week 52, the proportion of patients who achieved a  $\geq 2$  step improvement in the ETDRS Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Score (DRSS), and the mean change from baseline in CRT.

Patient ages ranged from 23 to 87 years with a mean of 63 years. In the DME Phase III studies, approximately 47% (268/576) of the patients randomized to treatment with aflibercept were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 9% (52/576) were 75 years of age or older.

Overall, half of the patients in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies had poorly controlled diabetes at baseline.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, the mean numbers of injections in the 2Q8 and 2Q4 groups were 8.7 and 12.2, respectively, and the mean numbers of laser treatments in the laser group was 2.1. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the mean numbers of injections in the 2Q8 and 2Q4 groups were 8.4 and 11.8, respectively, and the mean number of laser treatments in the laser group was 2.7.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, 36 (8.9%) and 197 (42.9%) of the patients received prior anti-VEGF therapy, respectively, with a 3-month or longer washout period. Treatment effects in the subgroup of patients who had previously been treated with a VEGF inhibitor prior to study participation were similar to those seen in patients who were VEGF inhibitor naïve prior to study participation.

More than 80% of patients in all treatment groups in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> had a DRSS at baseline of mild to severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, >60% of patients in the aflibercept groups received bilateral aflibercept injections.

**Table 17 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trials in DME**

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
VIVID <sup>DME</sup>	randomized, multi-center, double-blind, active-controlled	Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 8 weeks following 5 initial monthly injections (aflibercept 2Q8)</li> <li>Aflibercept administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (aflibercept 2Q4)</li> </ul>	Aflibercept 2Q8: n= 135	63.6 (32-84 years)	Male: 61.8% Female: 38.2%
VISTA <sup>DME</sup>			Aflibercept 2Q4: n= 136		
		Laser photocoagulation (with sham intraocular injections) 100 week study	Aflibercept laser: n= 135	62.2 (23-87 years)	Male: 54.5% Female: 45.5%
			Aflibercept 2Q8: n= 154		
			Aflibercept 2Q4: n= 156		
			Aflibercept laser: n= 156		

In both VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, the 52-week results demonstrate statistically significant superiority of aflibercept injections 2Q8 and 2Q4 treatment groups as compared to laser control on both primary and secondary endpoints.

A rapid improvement in BCVA was observed as early as one week in the aflibercept-treated patients. In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, the mean change in BCVA after the initial 4 week period was a gain of +5.4 (2Q8), +5.7 (2Q4) and +0.9 (laser) letters. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the mean change in BCVA after the initial 4 week period was a gain of +6.6 (2Q8), +7.0 (2Q4) and +2.6 (laser) letters.

Detailed results from the analysis of the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies at week 52 are shown in [Table 18](#) and [Figure 13](#) below.

**Table 18 – Efficacy Outcomes at Week 52 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies<sup>e</sup>**

Efficacy Outcomes	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>			VISTA <sup>DME</sup>		
	52 Weeks			52 Weeks		
	Aflibercept 2Q8 <sup>a</sup> (n = 135)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (n = 136)	Control (laser) (n = 132)	Aflibercept 2Q8 <sup>a</sup> (n = 151)	Aflibercept 2Q4 (n = 154)	Control (laser) (n = 154)
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from Baseline (SD)	10.7 (9.3)	10.5 (9.6)	1.2 (10.7)	10.7 (8.2)	12.5 (9.5)	0.2 (12.5)
Difference in LS mean <sup>b,c</sup>	9.1	9.3		10.5	12.2	
(97.5% CI)	(6.3, 11.8)	(6.5, 12.0)		(7.7, 13.2)	(9.4, 15.0)	
p-value	p < 0.0001	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001	p < 0.0001	
Proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from Baseline	33.3%	32.4%	9.1%	31.1%	41.6%	7.8%
Adjusted Difference <sup>c,d</sup>	24.2%	23.3%		23.3%	34.2%	
(97.5% CI)	(13.5, 34.9)	(12.6, 33.9)		(13.5, 33.1)	(24.1, 44.4)	
p-value	p < 0.0001	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001	p < 0.0001	

- a After treatment initiation with 5 monthly injections
- b LS mean and CI based on an ANCOVA model with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate and a factor for treatment group. Additionally, region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) had been included as a factor for VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, and history of MI and/or CVA as a factor for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>.
- c Difference is aflibercept group minus active control (laser) group
- d Difference with confidence interval (CI) and statistical test is calculated using Mantel -Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted by region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) for VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and medical history of MI or CVA for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>
- e For both studies, VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>, beginning at week 24, if criteria were met, patients in the control (laser) arm may have received aflibercept (2Q8) and patients randomized to the aflibercept arm may have received laser treatment.

BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity; ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward; SD: Standard deviation; LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA; CI: Confidence interval; MI: Myocardial Infarction; CVA: cerebrovascular accident

#### 52 Week Analysis

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, at Week 52, the proportion of patients gaining ≥10 letters in BCVA from baseline was 53.3%, 54.4% and 25.8% for the groups receiving aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and control

(laser), respectively. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the corresponding results at Week 52 were 58.3%, 64.9% and 19.5%, respectively.

The proportion of patients with improvement of  $\geq 2$  steps on the ETDRS DRSS from baseline was 27.7%, 33.3% and 7.5% for the groups receiving aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and control (laser), respectively, at Week 52 in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the corresponding results at Week 52 were 29.1%, 33.8% and 14.3%, respectively.

#### *100 Week Analysis*

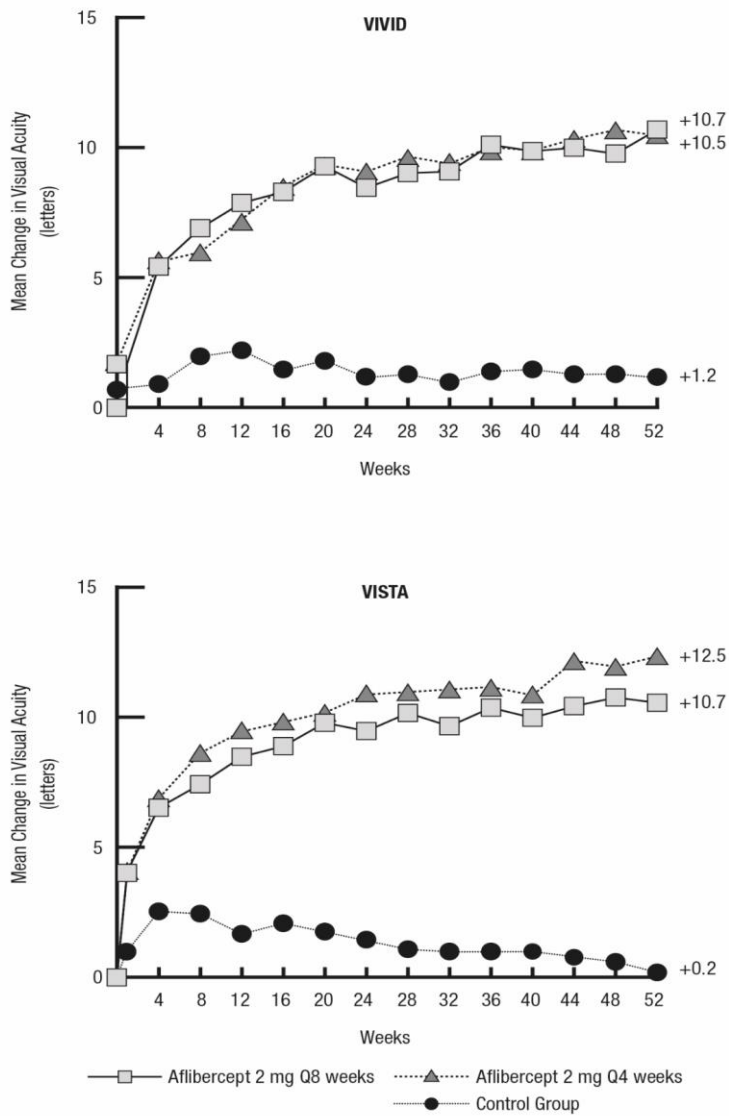
There were 82% of patients who completed the 100 weeks study. The mean number of injections for aflibercept treatment group was 21.9 injections (aflibercept 2Q4) and 13.6 injections (aflibercept 2Q8). Due to the study design, beginning at week 24, 5.2% and 9.8% of patients received 1.8 and 1.5 additional laser treatments in aflibercept 2Q4 and aflibercept 2Q8, respectively; 38.0% of patients in the laser group received 8.8 additional aflibercept (2Q8) on average.

The mean change from baseline in BCVA was +9.4 letters in the aflibercept 2Q8 group vs. +11.4 letters in the aflibercept 2Q4 group vs. +0.7 letters in the control (laser) group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, and +11.1 letters vs. +11.5 letters vs. +0.9 letters in VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. The proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters of vision from baseline was 31.1% in the aflibercept 2Q8 treatment group vs. 38.2% in the aflibercept 2Q4 treatment group vs. 12.1% in the control (laser) group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, and 33.1% vs. 38.3% vs. 13.0% in VISTA<sup>DME</sup>.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, at Week 100, the proportion of patients gaining  $\geq 10$  letters in BCVA from baseline was 49.6%, 58.1% and 25.0% for the groups receiving aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and control (laser), respectively. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the corresponding results at Week 100 were 59.6%, 63.6% and 27.9%, respectively.

At Week 100 in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, the proportion of patients with improvement of  $\geq 2$  steps on the ETDRS DRSS from baseline was 32.6%, 29.3% and 8.2% for the groups receiving aflibercept 2Q8, aflibercept 2Q4, and control (laser), respectively. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, the corresponding results at Week 100 were 37.1%, 37.0% and 15.6%, respectively.

**Figure 13 – Mean change in BCVA as Measured ETDRS Letter Score from Baseline to Week 52 in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies**



Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline HbA1c, baseline visual acuity, prior anti-VEGF therapy) in each study and in the combined analysis were consistent with the results in the overall populations.

A patient-level-data comparison using propensity score matching (PSM) methodology was performed on data from three independent studies. Based on PSM, subsets of 179 matched patients were identified from pooled VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> (utilizing a fixed aflibercept dosing regimen) and Protocol T (utilizing a flexible dosing regimen based on strict OCT and vision re-treatment criteria). The PSM analysis showed that mean change in BCVA from baseline at week 52 was 10.9 letters in the 2 mg aflibercept 2Q8 fixed dosing regimen (VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>) and 13.7 letters in the 2 mg aflibercept flexible dosing regimen (Protocol T).

### **VIOLET Study**

VIOLET was a 100-week multicenter, randomized, open-label, active controlled study designed to compare three different dosing regimens of aflibercept 2 mg for the treatment of DME in 463 patients after at least one year of treatment at fixed intervals, where treatment was initiated with 5 consecutive monthly doses followed by dosing every 2 months. Eligible patients were randomized (1:1:1 ratio) to aflibercept 2 mg dosed according to a treat-and-extend regimen (2T&E), where injections intervals were kept at a minimum of 8 weeks and gradually extended based on clinical and anatomical outcomes, aflibercept 2 mg dosed as needed (2PRN), where patients were observed every 4 weeks and injected when needed based on clinical and anatomical outcomes, or aflibercept 2 mg dosed every 8 weeks (2Q8) for the second and third year of treatment. In the 2T&E arm, modifications of the injection intervals were at the investigator's discretion, based on visual and anatomic outcomes; increments of 2 weeks were typically recommended.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the change in BCVA from study baseline to week 52.

The change in BCVA from study baseline to week 52 was  $0.5 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.7 \pm 6.8$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.4 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2Q8 group. The changes in BCVA from study baseline to week 100 were  $-0.1 \pm 9.1$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.8 \pm 9.0$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.1 \pm 7.2$  letters in the 2Q8 group. The mean number of injections over 100 weeks were 10.0, 11.5 and 12.3 for 2T&E, 2PRN and 2Q8, respectively.

### **Treatment of myopic CNV**

The safety and efficacy of aflibercept in subjects with choroidal neovascularization secondary to pathologic myopia (myopic CNV) were assessed in a randomized, parallel-group, multi-center, double-masked, sham-controlled Phase 3 study conducted in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea (see [Table 19](#)).

122 subjects (91 aflibercept and 31 Sham) were randomized 3:1 to the aflibercept or Sham groups. Patients randomized to the aflibercept group received 1 injection at baseline. Additional injections were performed in case of CNV persistence or recurrence at monthly visits through week 44. Patients randomized to the Sham group received a sham injection at baseline. Although subjects randomized to the Sham group underwent assessment of re-treatment criteria for masking purposes, an injection of active drug was not given regardless of the outcome of this assessment. Patients were evaluated at 4-week intervals for BCVA using the ETDRS chart at 4 meters. At week 24, after assessment of the primary efficacy end point, patients in the Sham group received a mandatory aflibercept followed by aflibercept (if disease persisted/recurred) or sham injection every 4 weeks.

A total of 14 subjects discontinued the study treatment prior to Week 24; 8 (8.8%) in the aflibercept group and 6 (19.4%) in the Sham group. Between Week 24 and Week 48, treatment was discontinued

in 5 subjects (5.5%) in the aflibercept group and in one subject (3.2%) in the Sham+aflibercept group.

The majority of patients were female (76.0%) and Japanese (74.4%), and the mean age was 58.2 years (range 27-83). Most patients had classic CNV (98.3%) and a disease duration of <2 months (80.2%). The mean axial length was 28.7 (SD 1.6) mm. Approximately 97% of patients had a baseline BCVA of >20/200 (≥35 letters) and, in both groups, the mean baseline BCVA letter score was approximately 56.5 letters.

Overall, patients in the aflibercept group received a median of 3.0 (range 1-12) injections over the study period of 48 weeks.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the mean change in visual acuity at week 24 compared to baseline.

The confirmatory secondary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24 compared to baseline.

**Table 19 – Summary of Patient Demographics for Clinical Trial in myopic CNV**

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
MYRROR	randomized, parallel-group, multi-center, double-masked, sham-controlled	Intravitreal injection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept 2 mg administered on day 1; then aflibercept 2 mg or sham administered depending on whether study re-treatment criteria were met</li> <li>Sham injections every 4 weeks up to week 20, aflibercept 2 mg at week 24; then aflibercept 2 mg or sham administered depending on whether study re-treatment criteria were met</li> </ul> 48 week study	Aflibercept: n= 91 Sham: n= 31	58.2 (27-83 years)	Male: 24.6%  Female: 75.4%

In the MYRROR study, the 24-weeks results demonstrated statistical superiority of aflibercept as compared to sham injections on both primary and confirmatory secondary endpoints (Table 20). In the aflibercept group, the mean change in BCVA was maintained until Week 48 (Figure 14).

**Table 20 – Efficacy Outcomes at Week 24 (primary analysis) in MYRROR study (Full Analysis Set with LOCF)**

Efficacy Outcomes	24 Weeks	
	Aflibercept 2 mg (N = 90)	Sham (N = 31)
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from Baseline (SD)	12.1 (8.3)	-2.0 (9.7)
Difference in LS mean <sup>a,b</sup>	14.1	
(95% CI)	(10.8, 17.4)	
p-value <sup>d</sup>	p < 0.0001	
Proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from Baseline	38.9%	9.7%
Adjusted Difference <sup>a,c</sup>	29.2%	
(95% CI)	(14.4, 44.0)	
p-value <sup>d</sup>	p = 0.0001	

a Difference is aflibercept 2mg minus sham at Week 24.

b LS mean difference and 95% CI based on an ANCOVA model with treatment group and country (country designations) as fixed effects, and baseline BCVA as covariant.

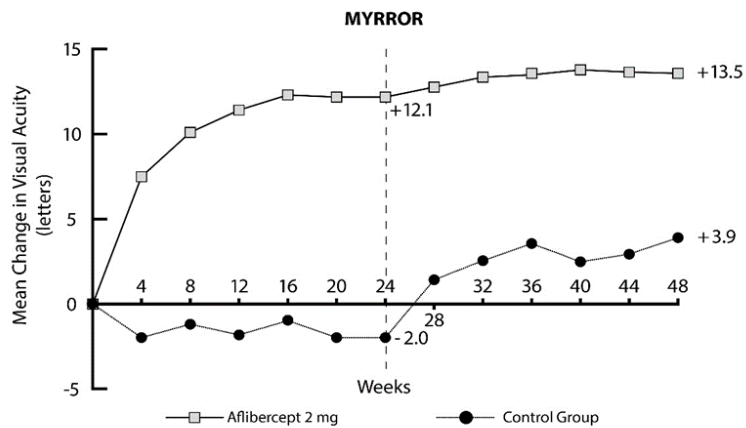
c Difference and 95% CI are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for country (country designations)

d To control the type I error rate for multiple testing, the confirmatory secondary endpoint was only tested if the null hypothesis for the primary endpoint could be rejected

LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward; BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity; ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; SD: Standard Deviation; LS mean: Least square means; CI: Confidence Interval

At week 48, the mean improvement from baseline in BCVA was +13.5 letters for the group receiving aflibercept and +3.9 letters for the Sham+aflibercept group. At week 48, the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline was 50.0% for the group receiving aflibercept and 29.0% for the group initially receiving sham injections.

**Figure 14 – Mean change from baseline to week 48 in visual acuity by treatment group for the MYRROR study (Full Analysis Set, LOCF)**



### Immunogenicity

Immunogenicity was measured in serum samples. The immunogenicity data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for antibodies to aflibercept in immunoassays, and are highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assays.

In Phase III studies, the pre-treatment incidence of immune reactivity to aflibercept was approximately 1% to 3% in all treatment groups. After dosing with aflibercept for up to 96 weeks (wet AMD), 52 weeks (CRVO and BRVO), 100 weeks (DME), and 48 weeks (myopic CNV), antibodies to aflibercept were detected in a similar percentage range of patients. In the wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME, and myopic CNV studies, there were no differences in efficacy or safety between patients with or without immune reactivity.

Overall, the risk of significant immunogenicity with aflibercept appears to be very low.

## 15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

## 16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

**General Toxicology:** The toxicological profile of aflibercept was assessed in several repeated dose studies in monkeys. In brief, the following pivotal studies were performed:

- 1) a 9-week or 6-month repeat-dose intravitreal study with 12 weeks of recovery, where monkeys were administered aflibercept doses of 0, 4, or 7 mg/eye bilaterally every 4 weeks. Erosions and ulcerations of the respiratory epithelium in nasal turbinates were observed in monkeys treated with aflibercept at all doses. A No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) was not identified. At the Lowest

Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) of 4 mg/eye in monkeys, the systemic exposure was 637- and 1143-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC when compared to corresponding values observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral intravitreal dose of 2 mg. Systemic toxicity was not fully assessed in this study.

2) an 8-month repeat-dose intravitreal study with 4-months of recovery, where monkeys were administered aflibercept bilaterally every 4 weeks at doses of 0, 0.5, 2, or 4 mg/eye. Systemic effects were limited to erosions and ulcerations of the respiratory epithelium in nasal turbinates in monkeys treated with aflibercept at doses of 2 or 4 mg/eye. At the NOAEL of 0.5 mg/eye in monkeys, the systemic exposure was 42- and 56-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC when compared to corresponding values observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral intravitreal dose of 2 mg.

3) a 6-month repeat-dose intravenous study with 5-months of recovery, where monkeys were administered aflibercept intravenously once weekly for 5 weeks; then once every 2 weeks for 12 weeks at doses of 0, 3, 10, or 30 mg/kg. No NOAEL was identified. At the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) of 3 mg/eye in monkeys, the systemic exposure was 1546-fold higher based on AUC when compared to corresponding values observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral intravitreal dose of 2 mg. Under these conditions and high systemic exposure, aflibercept can cause system-wide organ effects. Monkeys given aflibercept had reduced body weight and developed erosion/ulceration of the nasal turbinate epithelia leading to hemorrhage. Anemia related to bleeding as a result of lesions in the nasal cavity resulted in the premature euthanization of one monkey in the low-dose group. Monkeys administered doses  $\geq 3$  mg/kg developed deformity or abnormal bone growth of spinal vertebrae or bones of the limbs, along with muscular atrophy, and joint degeneration. Monkeys also developed renal inflammation and glomerulopathy accompanied by proteinuria and albuminuria. At doses  $\geq 10$  mg/kg, monkeys showed vascular degeneration/proliferation in tissues of the GI tract, heart, joints, and nervous system, as well as liver inflammation and necrosis.

**Carcinogenicity:** No studies have been conducted on the carcinogenic potential of aflibercept.

**Genotoxicity:** No studies have been conducted on the mutagenic potential of aflibercept.

**Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology:** Effects on male and female fertility were assessed as part of a 6-month repeat-dose intravenous study with 5-months of recovery, where monkeys were administered aflibercept intravenously once weekly for 15 weeks; then once every 2 weeks for 12 weeks at doses of 0, 3, 10, or 30 mg/kg. Absent or irregular menses associated with alterations in female reproductive hormone levels and changes in sperm morphology and motility were observed at all dose levels. In addition, females showed decreased ovarian and uterine weight accompanied by compromised luteal development and reduction of maturing follicles. These changes correlated with uterine and vaginal atrophy. A No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) was not identified. Intravenous administration of the lowest dose of aflibercept assessed in monkeys (3 mg/kg) resulted in systemic exposure (AUC) that was approximately 1500-fold higher than the exposure observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral intravitreal dose of 2 mg. All changes were reversible within 20 weeks after cessation of treatment.

Aflibercept produced embryo-fetal toxicity in an embryo-fetal development study in pregnant rabbits with intravenous administration (3 to 60 mg/kg on gestation Days 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18). The maternal NOAEL was at the dose of 3 mg/kg. At this dose, the systemic exposures based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC for free aflibercept were approximately 2000- and 600-fold higher, respectively, when compared to corresponding values observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral

intravitreal dose of 2 mg.

In an embryo-fetal development study in pregnant rabbits, aflibercept produced embryo-fetal toxicity when administered every three days during organogenesis to pregnant rabbits at intravenous doses  $\geq 3$  mg per kg (3 to 60 mg/kg), or every six days at subcutaneous doses  $\geq 0.1$  mg per kg. Adverse embryo-fetal effects included increased incidences of postimplantation loss and fetal malformations, including anasarca, umbilical hernia, diaphragmatic hernia, gastroschisis, cleft palate, ectrodactyly, intestinal atresia, spina bifida, encephalomeningocele, heart and major vessel defects, and skeletal malformations (fused vertebrae, sternebrae, and ribs; supernumerary vertebral arches and ribs; and incomplete ossification). The maternal No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) in these studies was 3 mg per kg. Aflibercept produced fetal malformations at all doses assessed in rabbits and the fetal NOAEL was less than 0.1 mg per kg. Administration of the lowest dose assessed in rabbits (0.1 mg per kg) resulted in systemic exposure (AUC) that was approximately 10 times the systemic exposure observed in adult patients with neovascular AMD given a single unilateral intravitreal dose of 2 mg. A pre- and postnatal development study was not conducted with aflibercept.

**Juvenile Toxicity:** No juvenile toxicity studies have been conducted with aflibercept.

## 17 SUPPORTING PRODUCT MONOGRAPHS

1. PrEYLEA® (aflibercept injection, 2 mg / 0.05 mL solution for intravitreal injection), submission 266439, Product Monograph Bayer Inc. [May 02, 2025]

## **PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

### **READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE**

#### **AHZANTIVE™**

##### **Aflibercept injection**

Read this carefully before you start taking **Ahzantive** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **Ahzantive**.

**Ahzantive** is a biosimilar biologic drug (biosimilar) to the reference biologic drug Eylea. A biosimilar is authorized based on its similarity to a reference biologic drug that was already authorized for sale.

##### **What is Ahzantive used for?**

Ahzantive (“ah-ZAN-tiv”) is a solution which is injected into the eye (intravitreal injection) by your doctor with local anesthesia (freezing) to treat the eye conditions neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration – (wet) AMD, macular edema secondary to central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), macular edema secondary to branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO), diabetic macular edema (DME) or myopic choroidal neovascularization (mCNV). There is no clinical trial experience with Ahzantive in the treatment of non-Asian patients with myopic CNV.

##### **How does Ahzantive work?**

Growth factors (known as VEGF-A and PlGF) can cause extra blood vessels to grow and leak in the back of the eye, which can cause loss of vision.

Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) and Placental Growth Factor (PlGF) are proteins that play an important role in making the abnormal blood vessels that contribute to the progression of wet AMD and the macular edema (swelling) that is seen with diabetic macular edema (DME). These blood vessels are fragile and can leak fluid and blood into the macula, leading to vision loss. DME is a swelling of the retina occurring in patients with diabetes due to leaking of fluid from blood vessels within the macula. The macula is the portion of retina responsible for fine vision. When the macula swells with fluid, central vision becomes blurry.

In Central Retinal Vein Occlusion (CRVO), a blockage occurs in the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina (the light sensitive back part of the eye), where fluid accumulates in the back of the eye, causing swelling (called macular edema).

In patients with BRVO, one or more branches of the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina is blocked, which cause the fluid accumulation in the back of the eye (swelling, called macular edema).

Myopic choroidal neovascularization (mCNV) is a severe form of myopia (near sightedness) which leads to elongated eyes with additional defects such as thinning, cracks and ruptures in some of the layers in the back of the eye. This triggers the abnormal formation of new blood vessels which can cause bleeding into the eye and eventually may lead to loss of vision.

Aflibercept, the active substance in Ahzantive, blocks these growth factors, and has been shown to help improve vision or slow vision loss from wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME, and myopic CNV.

These diseases may cause decreased vision.

##### **What are the ingredients in Ahzantive?**

Medicinal ingredients: aflibercept

Non-medicinal ingredients: histidine, histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, polysorbate 20, sodium chloride, sucrose, and water for injection.

**Ahzantive comes in the following dosage forms:**

Ahzantive is a sterile, clear, colourless to pale yellow, solution for injection which is iso-osmotic (similar properties to the inside of your eye). Solution for intravitreal injection 2 mg / 0.05 mL in vial.

Each carton includes a type I glass vial containing an extractable volume of at least 100 microliters solution for intravitreal injection with an elastomeric butyl rubber stopper.

**Do not use Ahzantive if:**

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to aflibercept or any of the other ingredients of Ahzantive listed below or component of the container
- you have inflammation of the eye (symptoms include eye pain, redness and trouble seeing)
- you have an infection in or around the eye (ocular or periocular infection)

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take Ahzantive. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:**

Take special care with Ahzantive:

- Injection with Ahzantive may trigger an increase in eye pressure (intraocular pressure) in some patients within 60 minutes of the injection. Your doctor may monitor this after each injection. If you have glaucoma (increased eye pressure), please tell your doctor.
- Although uncommon, all intravitreal injections, including those with Ahzantive, carry a risk of serious infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis), inflammation of the vessels of the retina (retinal vasculitis with or without occlusion), detachment or tear of the retina at the back of the eye (symptoms include eye pain, worsening eye redness, blurred or decreased vision, sensitivity to light, sudden loss of vision, flashing lights and black spots), and cataracts (clouding of the lens in the front of the eye). Please contact your doctor immediately if you develop any of these symptoms.
- Inform your doctor if you have already had a stroke or experienced transient signs of stroke (weakness or paralysis of limbs or face, difficulty speaking or understanding). This information will be taken into account to evaluate if Ahzantive is the appropriate treatment for you.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you develop signs of a possible allergic reaction (for example, fast pulse, low blood pressure, sweating, allergic skin reactions such as rash, itching or stinging).

Before you use Ahzantive, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:

- **You are taking other medicines:** Please tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.
- **You are or plan to become pregnant:** There is no experience of using Ahzantive in pregnant women. In animals, high doses have been shown to have toxic effects on the fetus. Therefore, Ahzantive is not recommended during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, discuss this with your doctor before treatment with Ahzantive. Women of childbearing potential have to

use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of Ahzantive.

- **You are breast-feeding:** Ahzantive is not recommended during breast-feeding as it is not known whether aflibercept passes into human milk. A risk to the breast-fed child cannot be excluded. Ask your doctor for advice before starting Ahzantive treatment. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to abstain from Ahzantive therapy.
- You have a history of seeing flashes of light or floaters, or if you have a sudden increase in the size or number of floaters.

The use of Ahzantive in children and adolescents has not been studied and is therefore not recommended.

#### **Driving and Using Machines**

After your Ahzantive injection, you may experience some temporary visual disturbances. Do not drive or use machinery as long as these last.

**Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.**

#### **How to take Ahzantive:**

##### **Usual dose:**

Ahzantive is intended for injection into the eye. It must only be administered by a doctor experienced in giving eye injections.

Ahzantive will be injected under aseptic (clean and sterile) conditions. Before the injection, your doctor will use a disinfectant eyewash to clean your eye carefully to prevent infection. Your doctor will also give you a local anesthetic to reduce or prevent any pain you might have with the injection.

##### ***Treatment of AMD***

The recommended dose of Ahzantive is 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters). It will be administered once a month (every 4 weeks) for the first 3 months (12 weeks) then you may receive an injection every 2 months (8 weeks) thereafter. Your doctor will decide whether the treatment interval between injections may be maintained at every 2 months (8 weeks) or it may be extended by 2 weeks. The maximum of interval between two doses is 16 weeks.

Based on examination by your doctor, you may be prescribed an Ahzantive injection every month (4 weeks) after the first 3 months. The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month. Your doctor will monitor your vision regularly.

##### ***Treatment of CRVO and BRVO***

The recommended dose of Ahzantive is 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters). Ahzantive will be administered once every month (4 weeks) and may be extended to up to every 3 months (12 weeks) based on examination by your doctor. The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month. Your vision will be monitored by your doctor every 1 to 2 months to determine the need for continued treatment.

##### ***Treatment of DME***

If you are a patient with diabetic macular edema, the recommended dose of Ahzantive is 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters). You will be treated with Ahzantive once a month (every 4 weeks) for the first 5

consecutive months, then you may receive one injection every 2 months (8 weeks) thereafter. The treatment interval may be kept at every two months (8 weeks) or extended, by up to 2 weeks at a time, based on your doctor's examination. Your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations.

Based on examination by your doctor, you may be prescribed an Ahzantive injection every month (4 weeks) after the first 5 months.

#### **Treatment of myopic CNV**

If you are a patient with myopic choroidal neovascularization you will be treated with one single injection of Ahzantive 2 mg (0.05 mL or 50 microliters) at the beginning of your therapy. You will receive additional injections only if during examination your doctor finds that your disease persists. If your disease resolves, your treatment will stop. In case your disease recurs it will be treated like a new disease.

The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

**Use in children:** The safety and efficacy of Ahzantive have not been studied in patients who are younger than 18 years of age. Health Canada has not authorized Ahzantive for pediatric use.

#### **Before stopping Ahzantive treatment:**

Consult your doctor before stopping the treatment. If you have any further questions about the use of this product, ask your doctor.

#### **Overdose:**

**For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844-POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).**

#### **Missed Dose:**

If a dose of Ahzantive is missed, make a new appointment for an examination and injection as soon as possible.

#### **What are possible side effects from using Ahzantive?**

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking Ahzantive. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Like all medicines, Ahzantive can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

With administration of Ahzantive, there may be some side effects due to the injection procedure. Some of these may be serious and include infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis), sudden loss or change of sharpness of vision (detachment or tear of retina), increase of pressure inside the eye (intraocular pressure), clouding of the lens due to injury (cataract traumatic), and detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina (vitreous detachment), in AMD clinical studies; endophthalmitis, cataract and vitreous detachment in CRVO clinical studies; cataract in BRVO clinical studies; retinal detachment in DME clinical studies; and macular hole in the myopic CNV clinical study. These serious side effects occurred in less than 1 in 1000 (16 of 26,780 injections in AMD studies; 3 out of 2,728 intravitreal injections in CRVO clinical studies; 1 out of 1,115 intravitreal injections in BRVO clinical studies; 1 out of 5940 intravitreal injections in DME clinical studies; and 1 out of 474 injections in the myopic CNV study.

The following is a list of the side effects reported to be possibly related to the injection procedure or to the medicine. Please do not get alarmed, you might not experience any of these. Always discuss any suspected side effects with your doctor.

**Very common side effects** (more than 1 in 10 patients may be affected):

- bloodshot eye caused by bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye (conjunctival hemorrhage)
- eye pain

**Common side effects** (between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients may be affected):

- decreased sharpness of vision (retinal pigment epithelium tear\*, detachment of the retinal pigment epithelium)\*
- certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract, cataract cortical, cataract nuclear, cataract subcapsular)
- damage to the front layer of the eyeball (corneal erosion, corneal abrasion, punctate keratitis)
- increase in eye pressure (intraocular pressure increased)
- blurred vision
- moving spots in vision (vitreous floaters)
- detachment of the vitreous (gel-like substance inside the eye) from the retina (vitreous detachment)
- a feeling of having something in the eye (foreign body sensation in eyes)
- increased tear production (lacrimation increased)
- swelling of the eyelid (eyelid edema)
- pain or bleeding at the injection site (injection site pain or hemorrhage)
- redness of the eye (conjunctival hyperemia, ocular hyperemia)

\* Conditions known to be associated with wet AMD; observed in wet AMD patients only.

**Uncommon side effects** (between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients may be affected):

- abnormal sensation in the eye
  - infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
  - irritation at the injection site
  - irritation of the eyelid
  - decreased sharpness of vision (retinal detachment, retinal tear)
  - generalized allergic reactions (hypersensitivity)\*\*
  - inflammation of certain parts of the eye (iridocyclitis, anterior chamber flare, uveitis)
  - certain forms of clouding of the lens (lenticular opacities)
  - damage of the front layer of the eyeball (corneal epithelium defect)
  - swelling of the front layer of the eyeball (corneal edema)
  - inflammation in the iris of the eye (iritis)
- \*\* Allergic reactions like rash, itching (pruritus), hives (urticaria), and a few cases of severe allergy (anaphylactic/anaphylactoid) reactions were reported

**Rare side effects** (between 1 and 10 in every 10,000 patients may be affected):

- inflammation of certain parts of the eye (vitritis)
- pus in front of the iris (coloured part of the eye) (hypopyon)
- clouding of the lens due to injury (cataract traumatic)

**Frequency not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- inflammation of the white part of the eye associated with redness and pain (scleritis)

The use of VEGF inhibitors similar to those contained in Ahzantive, but which have an effect throughout the body (systemic effect) is potentially related to risk of arterial thromboembolic events (of blood clots blocking blood vessels) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Ahzantive into the eye.

As with all therapeutic proteins, Ahzantive may cause an immune reaction (formation of antibodies).

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>COMMON</b> (between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients may be affected)			
Detachment of the outer layer of the retina (symptoms can include sudden appearance of floaters, flashes of light or a shadow over a portion of the visual field)		✓	
Clouding of vision		✓	
Damage to the cornea (the front layer of the eyeball) (symptoms can include eye pain, blurred vision, tearing, redness and extreme sensitivity to light)		✓	
Visual disturbances caused by detachment of the inner layer of the eye (sudden loss of vision, flashing lights, black spots)		✓	
Signs of stroke, such as weakness or paralysis of limbs or face, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden blurring or loss of vision: seek emergency medical care immediately*		✓	
<b>UNCOMMON</b> (between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients may be affected)			

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Infection or inflammation inside the eye (symptoms can include eye pain, swelling around the eye, light sensitivity, and worsening of vision) (endophthalmitis)		✓	
Increased pressure in the eye		✓	
Shock (Hypersensitivity) – fast pulse, low blood pressure, sweating)		✓	
Disturbed or blurred vision (retinal tear)		✓	
A sudden increase in new moving spots in vision and flashes of light in your side vision (vitreous detachment)		✓	
A feeling that you have something in your eye, a teary red eye, blurred vision in one eye, headache or unusual sensitivity to light (corneal abrasion)		✓	
Bleeding in the eye (vitreous hemorrhage, hyphema)		✓	
<b>RARE</b> (between 1 and 10 in every 10,000 patients may be affected)			
Hypopyon (pus in the eye)		✓	
Macular hole (symptoms can include distortion or blurriness in straight-ahead vision, straight lines or objects begin to look bent or wavy)		✓	
<b>FREQUENCY NOT KNOWN</b>			
Damage to the white part of the eye (symptoms can include eye pain, blurred vision, tearing, redness, extreme sensitivity to light) (scleritis)		✓	

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
* There is a theoretical risk of ATEs, including stroke, following injection of Ahzantive into the eye.			

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

#### Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

#### Storage:

- Keep out of reach and sight of children.
- Store in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze.
- Prior to usage, the unopened vial may be stored at room temperature (25°C) for up to 24 hours.
- Keep the vial in its outer carton in order to protect from light.

**If you want more information about Ahzantive:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website: (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website <http://www.formycon.com>, or by calling Progress Therapeutics Inc. Medical Information at (905) 477-4553 in Canada, 320 Harry Walker Pky., N., Suite 14, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 7B4, or mailing at [info@progresstherapeutics.com](mailto:info@progresstherapeutics.com)

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