

VeriTAS: Study Design and Baseline Characteristics for a Combination Therapy Trial in Wet AMD

Peter K. Kaiser, MD (Cleveland, OH)*

PURPOSE

The VeriTAS study is designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of verteporfin PDT combined with either intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide or pegaptanib sodium to treat subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The 24-month randomized, double-masked VeriTAS study enrolled patients at 50 centers in the U.S.

METHODS

Inclusion criteria: age ≥ 50 years; study-eye best-corrected VA letter score of 73-24 (20/40-20/320); subfoveal CNV lesion of any type, with CNV area $>50\%$ of total lesion; and GLD ≤ 5400 microns. In addition, occult with no classic lesions must have presumed recent disease progression. A reading center evaluated the baseline and follow-up FA, OCT, and fundus photographs. At baseline, participants were randomly assigned (1:1:1) to verteporfin PDT and one of two different doses of intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide (1 mg and 4 mg) or intravitreal pegaptanib sodium (0.3 mg). The primary efficacy variable will be the proportion of patients losing less than 15 letters of VA at month 12.

RESULTS

Study design and baseline characteristics in terms of patient demographics, lesion composition, and lesion size will be presented.

CONCLUSION

The results of this randomized trial will provide data that may refine clinical practice and provide clinicians with further insight into the utility of combination therapy with verteporfin PDT, with respect to efficacy, safety, and treatment course.

* Financial interest disclosed