

## Intravitreal Bevacizumab Therapy for Neovascular Age-related Macular Degeneration: A Pilot Study

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### PURPOSE

Evaluate efficacy and safety of intravitreal bevacizumab therapy for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (ARMD).

### METHODS

Patients with diagnosis of neovascular ARMD without any other ocular pathology were injected with 2.5 mg of intravitreal bevacizumab. Complete ophthalmologic examination was done to all patients, including best corrected visual acuity (BCVA), slit lamp biomicroscopy and ocular fundus examination. Ophthalmologic follow-up evaluations included visual acuity measurements and ocular examinations, along with optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging and fluorescein angiography at first, second and fourth week.

### RESULTS

39 eyes of 39 patients were injected. The median age was 76 years-old (range 56-90), median visual acuity was 1.18 logMAR (range 0.18-3.00) and median retinal thickness was 368 microns (range 157- 1237). By fourth week the median visual acuity was 0.88 (range 0.18-2.78) and median retinal thickness was 274 microns (range 150-1262). Statistically significant differences were found in visual acuity and retinal thickness before and after intravitreal injection ( $p=0.002$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Wilcoxon rank test).

### CONCLUSION

Our results suggest that intravitreal bevacizumab is well tolerated and it is associated with improvement in BCVA and decreased mean retinal thickness by OCT. Further controlled and long term evaluation of intravitreal bevacizumab for the treatment of neovascular ARMD is warranted.