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Intravitreal Bevacizumab Compared with Photodynamic Therapy for Juxtafoveal Choroidal Neovascular Membranes in Age Related Macular Degeneration

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PURPOSE
Is bevacizumab more effective at preventing vision loss from juxtafoveal macular degeneration than photodynamic therapy?

METHODS
A six month retrospective analysis of patients with juxtafoveal wet AMD who had received PDT treatments (n? 32) was compared to patients who had received intravitreal bevacizumab (n? 10). Twenty six PDT patients had new onset lesions and 6 patients had a history of focal laser to extrafoveal lesions. Six bevacizumab patients had new lesions and 4 patients had previous treatment with PDT, macugen, intraocular kenalog, or a combination therapy. All patients were retreated based upon activity of the lesion on either fluoroscein angiography, optical coherence tomography, or both.

RESULTS
The median baseline visual acuity of patients receiving PDT was 20/63 and similar among pts receiving intravitreal bevacizumab was 20/50 (p? 0.06). At an average of 6 months, the patients who received PDT had a significant drop in visual acuity to a median of 20/200 (p? 0.02) and required and average of 2 treatments. At an average of 5.2 months, the patients who received intravitreal bevacizumab had stable vision at 20/32 (p? 0.83) and required an average of 1.8 injections.

CONCLUSION
Intravitreal bevacizumab was able to maintain visual acuity in juxtafoveal lesions from wet AMD, whereas patients who received PDT had a large loss of vision as the lesions expanded subfoveally.