Will people with Geographic Atrophy (GA) say yes to treatment?
Exploring acceptability of emerging intravitreal therapies for GA

***Jamie Enoch**, Arevik Ghulakhszian, Mandeep Sekhon, David P. Crabb, Deanna J. Taylor, Christiana Dinah*

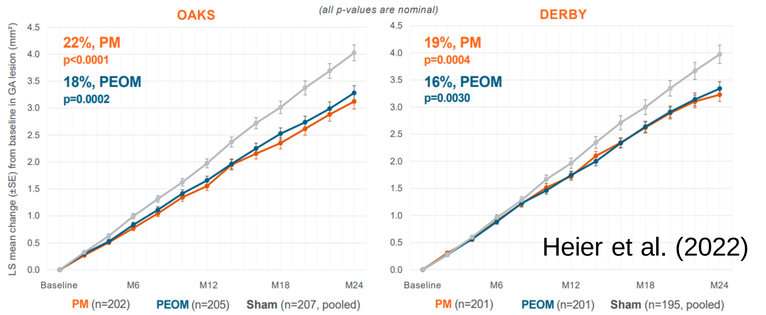
CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON EST 1894

NHS London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

St George's University of London

Purpose: Intravitreal complement inhibitors (e.g. pegcetacoplan (Syfovre) approved by FDA in Feb 2023) can slow the progression of Geographic Atrophy (GA). The acceptability of emerging intravitreal therapies for patients with GA is currently unknown. This study therefore aimed to investigate the extent to which regular intravitreal injections may be acceptable to GA patients.

Reductions in GA lesion growth at Month 24



Heier et al. (2022)

Methods: Structured questionnaire (Likert-type scale questions) and semi-structured interviews in 2021 with 30 GA patients at two London sites. Analysed using the Theoretical Framework of Acceptability (Sekhon et al., 2017).

Participants: 30 individuals with GA secondary to AMD

- Age (median): **83** (IQR: 78, 87); **67%** female
- **63%** with prior experience of intravitreal injections
- **37%** with foveal-involving GA
- Better eye BCVA (median): **0.30** LogMAR (IQR: 0.17, 0.58)

Over **50** hours of interviews

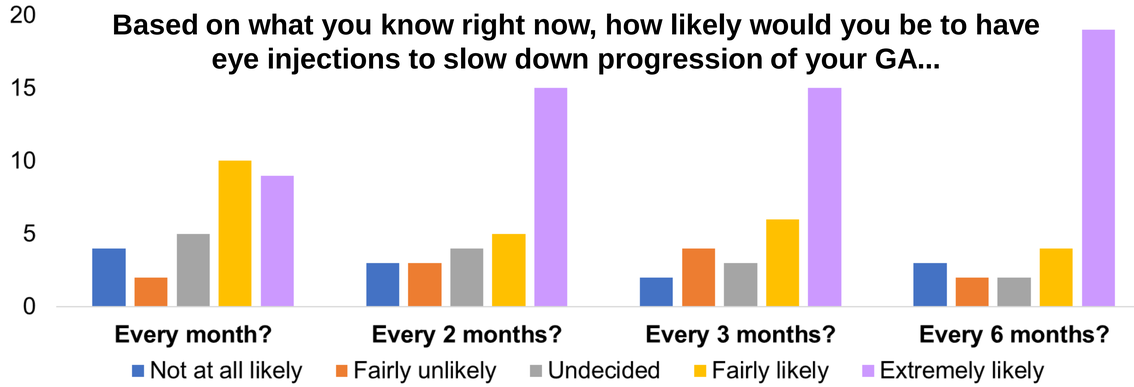
18 participants (**60%**) positive about intravitreal GA treatment

More time to perform vision-related activities as overriding motivation for treatment

Participants with worse EQ-5D score more likely to be positive about treatment, r_s (28) = 0.42, p = 0.021

8 participants (**27%**) ambivalent about treatment

4 participants (**13%**) unlikely to accept treatment



A majority of GA patients would be positive about intravitreal treatment for GA, in spite of potential burdens.

Need for larger studies, and appropriate patient education tools to support decision-making.

Concerns around **efficacy** of (lifelong) intravitreal treatment

"That's the best they can do? Slow down the process?" (P30, F, 87 y.o., BCVA 0.7)

Concerns around **side effects and risk of wet AMD**

"I would want to have longer vision, but I am concerned about the risk of wet AMD." (P5, M, 77 y.o., BCVA 0.04)

Concerns around **logistics**: transport, time in hospital

"Coming to hospital if it's once in 6 months is ok, it doesn't matter. If it's frequent, that's going to be a problem." (P11, F, 85 y.o., BCVA 0.16)

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References: 1. Sekhon M, Cartwright M, Francis JJ. Acceptability of healthcare interventions: an overview of reviews and development of a theoretical framework. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2017 Dec;17(1):1-3. **2.** Heier J, Singh R, Wykoff C, Steinle N, Boyer D, Monés J, et al. Efficacy of intravitreal pegcetacoplan in geographic atrophy: 24-month results from the phase 3 OAKS and DERBY trials. 2022 [cited 2022 Nov 28]. Available from: https://investors.apellis.com/static-files/78d1b209-7324-4c4c-8b20-bf7778493bae