Faricimab: The solution to Treatment Resistant Neovascular Age Related Macular Degeneration? A real-world study

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Introduction

- The need for frequent injections, in 2 in 3 patients with nAMD, at 4 or 6 – weekly interval intervals has exacerbated pressures on current services and the burden on patients and carers
- Faricimab (Vabysmo Roche) is a new agent – bispecific antibody that acts through dual inhibition of both Ang-2 and VEGF pathways
- Phase 3 clinical trials show extended duration of action of Faricimab (62% q16w and 80% q12w) at 2 years in treatment-naïve patients

Purpose

- Assess the visual and anatomical outcomes of patients being switched to Faricimab from other licensed drugs in a real-world setting
- Evaluate the proportion of patients achieving stability, improvement or failure at 8 weeks post-switch

Methods

- Retrospectively reviewed medical records of 170 eyes from 138 patients with nAMD switched onto Faricimab from October 2022 to March 2023
- Demographic characteristics, BCVA using logMAR letters and OCT at baseline, pre-switch and 8 weeks post-switch were evaluated
- We switched all patients with nAMD requiring intravitreal injections at 4 or 6-weekly intervals to Faricimab and reviewed at 8 weeks (unlike trials - 4xmonthly loading doses were not given)
- Depending on their OCT and VA outcomes 8 weeks post-switch, we maintained, extended or switched back to previous drug

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Results

	Extended to 10 weekly injections, *N*=41 (24%)	Maintained at 8 weekly injections, *N*=124 (73%)	Switched back to original drug, *N*=5 (3%)
Sex, female:male	28:13	68:66	3:2
Age, years	83.1± 6.7	81.6± 6.7	82.2± 6.7
Laterality, OD:OS	27:14	62:62	3:2
Age at diagnosis, years	79.7± 7.0	77.8± 6.7	78.4± 6.8
Time since nAMD diagnosis, months	41.0± 26.9	43.7± 34.3	43.1± 33.1
Only eyes, n (%)	4 (10%)	21 (17%)	0
Bilateral switches, n (%)	19 (46%)	45 (36%)	0
Number of injections, n	22.8± 15.4	26.9± 19.8	25.9± 19.2
4 to 6 weekly injection frequency, n (%)	37 (90%)	117 (94%)	5 (100%)

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of patients included in the study including those whose injection frequency were maintained, extended and overall

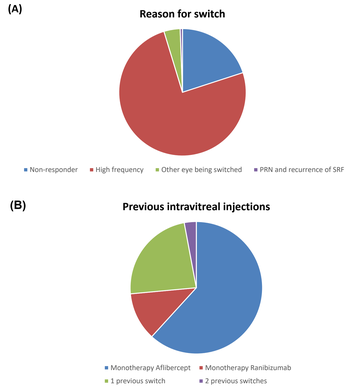


Figure 1. Pie charts illustrating (A) proportion of patients switched for different reasons and (B) proportion of patients on different intravitreal injection regimes

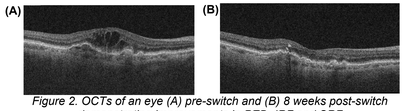


Figure 2. OCTs of an eye (A) pre-switch and (B) 8 weeks post-switch demonstrating improvements in PED, IRF and SRF

	Extended to 10 weekly injections, *N*=41 (24%)	Maintained at 8 weekly injections, *N*=124 (73%)	Switched back to original drug, *N*=5 (3%)
Baseline VA, logMAR letters	60.2± 11.5	63.9± 12.9	63.0± 12.4
Pre-switch VA, logMAR letters	66.0± 11.8	65.8± 13.8	65.5± 13.3
Post-switch VA, logMAR letters	68.2± 10.8	66.8± 13.3	66.7± 12.9
Stable or improved post-switch, n (%)	40 (98%)	118 (95%)	0 (0%)

Table 2. Visual acuity of patients included in the study including those whose injection frequency were maintained, extended and overall

	Extended to 10 weekly injections, *N*=41 (24%)	Maintained at 8 weekly injections, *N*=124 (73%)	Switched back to original drug, *N*=5 (3%)
PED			
Present pre-switch, n (%)	29 (71%)	101 (79%)	5 (100%)
Stable or improved post-switch, n (%)	40 (98%)	121 (98%)	4 (80%)
IRF			
Present pre-switch, n (%)	15 (36%)	48 (38%)	3 (60%)
Stable or improved post-switch, n (%)	40 (98%)	111 (87%)	0 (0%)
SRF			
Present pre-switch, n (%)	27 (66%)	102 (80%)	5 (100%)
Stable or improved post-switch, n (%)	40 (98%)	93 (73%)	0 (0%)
OCT-A			
CNVM present pre-switch, n (%)	12 (29%)	57 (45%)	2 (40%)
Stable or improved post-switch, n (%)	17 (41%)	78 (61%)	0 (0%)

Table 3. OCT findings of patients included in the study including those whose injection frequency were maintained, extended and overall

Results (cont'd)

- From the 170 eyes switched to Faricimab, 41 eyes (24%) were extended to 10 weeks, 124 eyes (73%) were maintained at 8 weeks and 5 (3%) were switched back to their original drug
- 83 eyes showed stable IRF and SRF with stable or improved VA post-switch
- 41 eyes showed reduction in IRF and/or SRF with stable or improved VA post-switch
- 41 eyes were dry with stable or improved VA post-switch
- 5 eyes showed deterioration in IRF or SRF and VA

Conclusions

- Initial results indicate that high proportion of patients switched to Faricimab have good visual and imaging outcomes at 8 weeks without reloading
- 24% of patients were extended to 10 weeks – the duration of this effect is undetermined
- Reducing treatment frequency for a significant proportion of patients requiring injections helped our service capacity challenges and provided significant benefit to our patients many of that depend on family/ friends/ carers to bring them for regular visits

References

[1] Heier JS, Khanani AM, Quezada Ruiz C, et al. Efficacy, durability, and safety of intravitreal faricimab up to every 16 weeks for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (TENAYA and LUCERNE): two randomised, double-masked, phase 3, non-inferiority trials. *Lancet*. 2022;**399**(10326):729–740