Efficacy of Aflibercept and Faricimab compared in the initial phases of treatment , of treatment naive neovascular age-related macular degeneration.

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Introduction:
This observational study is to compare the outcomes of a loading dosage and initial phases of fixed dosing of intravitreal Aflibercept and Faricimab on functional and morphological responses in neovascular AMD.

Methods: Prospective observational study on 50 treatment naive eyes of 42 Caucasian patients (25 females and 16 males) in the age group ranging from 77-86 years with a mean age of 81.5 years. Aflibercept and Faricimab was used in 21 patients for each group . The response to treatment was evaluated both functionally and anatomically using standard optical coherence tomography. Patients were re-examined one month after the loading dose (3 in Aflibercept and 4 in Faricimab group). Then they were reassessed at 8 weekly intervals with injection at every 8 weeks. The morphological features taken into consideration were presence or absence of intraretinal fluid, subretinal fluid, intraretinal haemorrhage, subretinal haemorrhage, and retinal pigment epithelium detachment. A paired t-test was used to compare the mean value of the anatomical factors from baseline to the loading dose and to the fixed dosing . p-values below 0.05 were considered statistically significant

Results :
After the loading dose , and first 8 weekly injection twenty eight eyes showed improvement in the vision (15 from Aflibercept and 13 from Faricimab group . 8 (4 from Aflibercept group and 4 from Faricimab group) showed worsening by 5 letters and the remaining did not show any change in the vision . At 8 weekly injections Aflibercept Patients maintained the resolution of morphological features except 5 eyes still had reduced and persistent RPED. 8 of the 21 Faricimab patients had recurrence of SRF and IRF though the vision was maintained. These patients needed two six weekly injections before extending it to 8 weeks .

Conclusion:
The functional and anatomical outcomes with the loading dose are similar in neovascular AMD with Aflibercept and Faricimab. However 38% of Faricimab patients needed two 6 weekly injections before extending to 8 weeks.