

12-month real-world outcomes of switching to aflibercept 8 mg in suboptimal responders with neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nARMD)

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PURPOSE

Real-world data on 12-month outcomes after switching to aflibercept 8 mg in neovascular AMD patients with suboptimal response to prior anti-VEGF therapy are limited.

This study evaluates 12-month outcomes in best corrected visual acuity (BCVA), central retinal thickness (CRT), and treatment intervals in suboptimal responders switched from aflibercept 2 mg or faricimab under a treat-and-extend (T&E) protocol.

METHODS

- Prospective observational study of consecutive treatment-experienced neovascular AMD patients
- Follow-up duration: ≥12 months after the switch to aflibercept 8mg

Inclusion criteria

- Patients previously treated with aflibercept 2 mg or faricimab under a treat-and-extend (T&E) protocol
- ≥4 prior anti-VEGF injections before switching to aflibercept 8 mg
- Suboptimal responders, defined as patients unable to maintain treatment intervals beyond 8 weeks due to disease activity

Treatment protocol

- Patients switched to aflibercept 8 mg with dose-matched intervals (no reloading phase)
- Treat-and-extend (T&E) protocol (OCT-guided):
 - No new or worsening subretinal or intraretinal fluid → extend interval by 4 weeks
 - Presence of fluid → reduce interval by 2 weeks

Outcomes

- Best corrected visual acuity (BCVA)
- Central retinal thickness (CRT)
- Treatment interval (weeks)

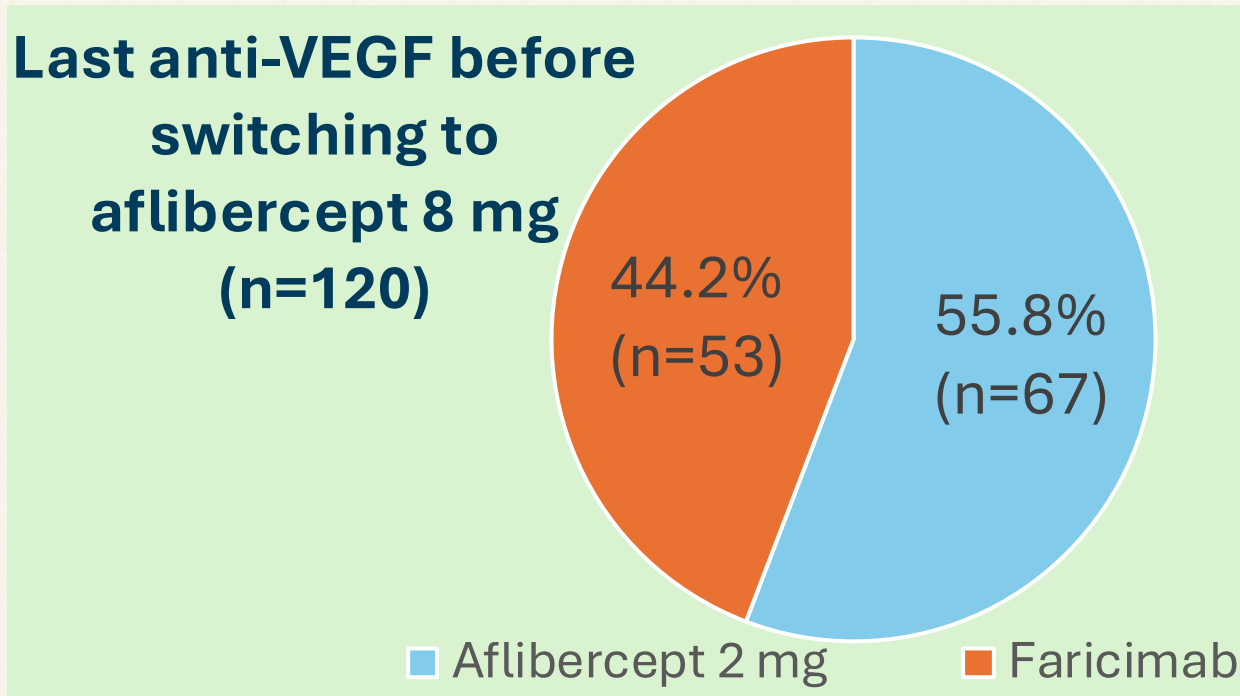
Statistical analysis

- Paired t-test

RESULTS

Baseline characteristics of the cohort

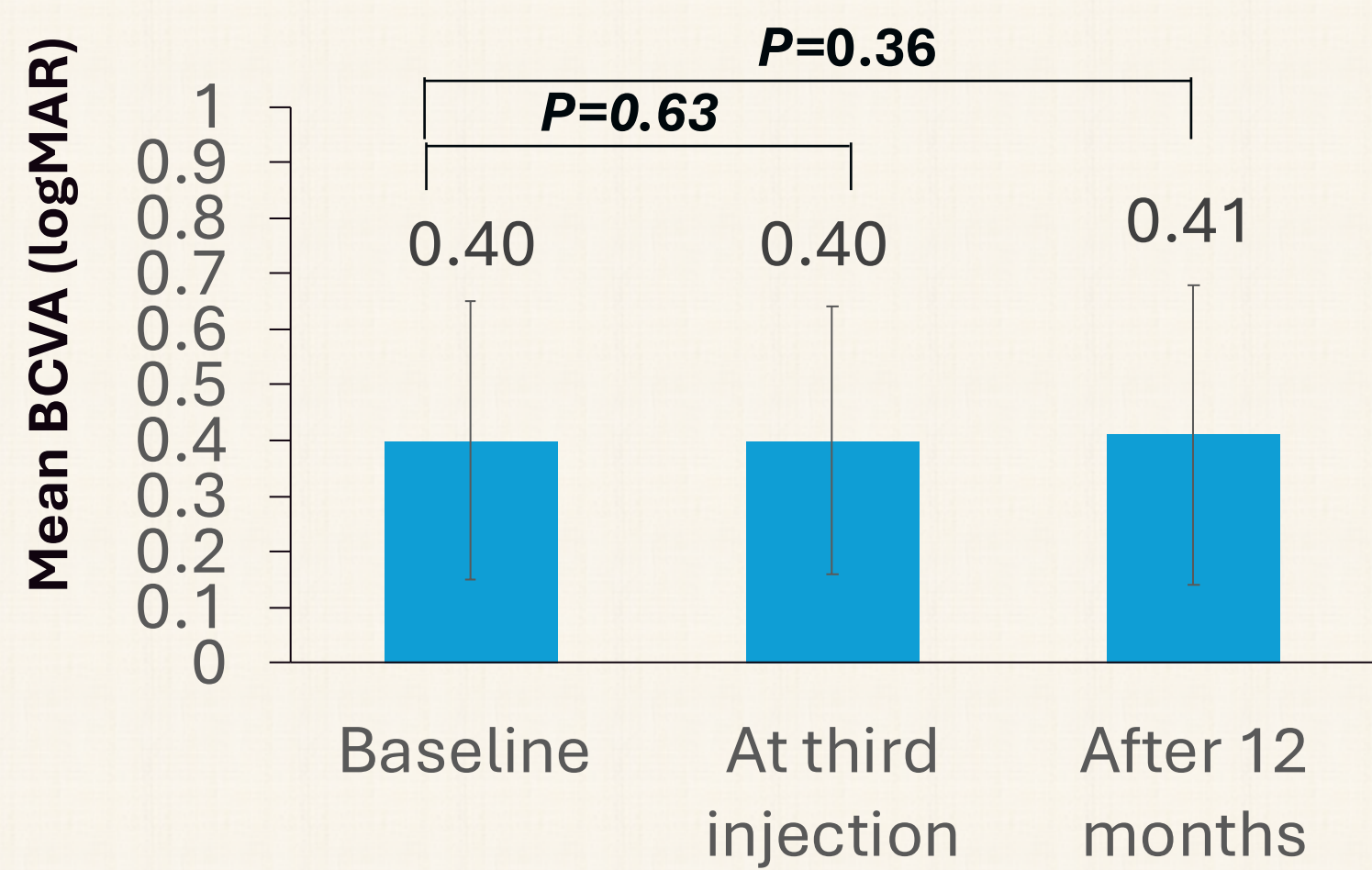
Demographics at the time of aflibercept 8 mg initiation	
Eyes (patients), N	126 (123)
Eyes included in the final analysis*, n	120
Age, years	
Range	49–98
Mean	79
Sex, n (%)	
Female	79 (62.7)
Male	47 (37.3)
Mean (range) number of injections prior to switch to aflibercept 8 mg	
Entire cohort (n=120)	11.4 (4–45)



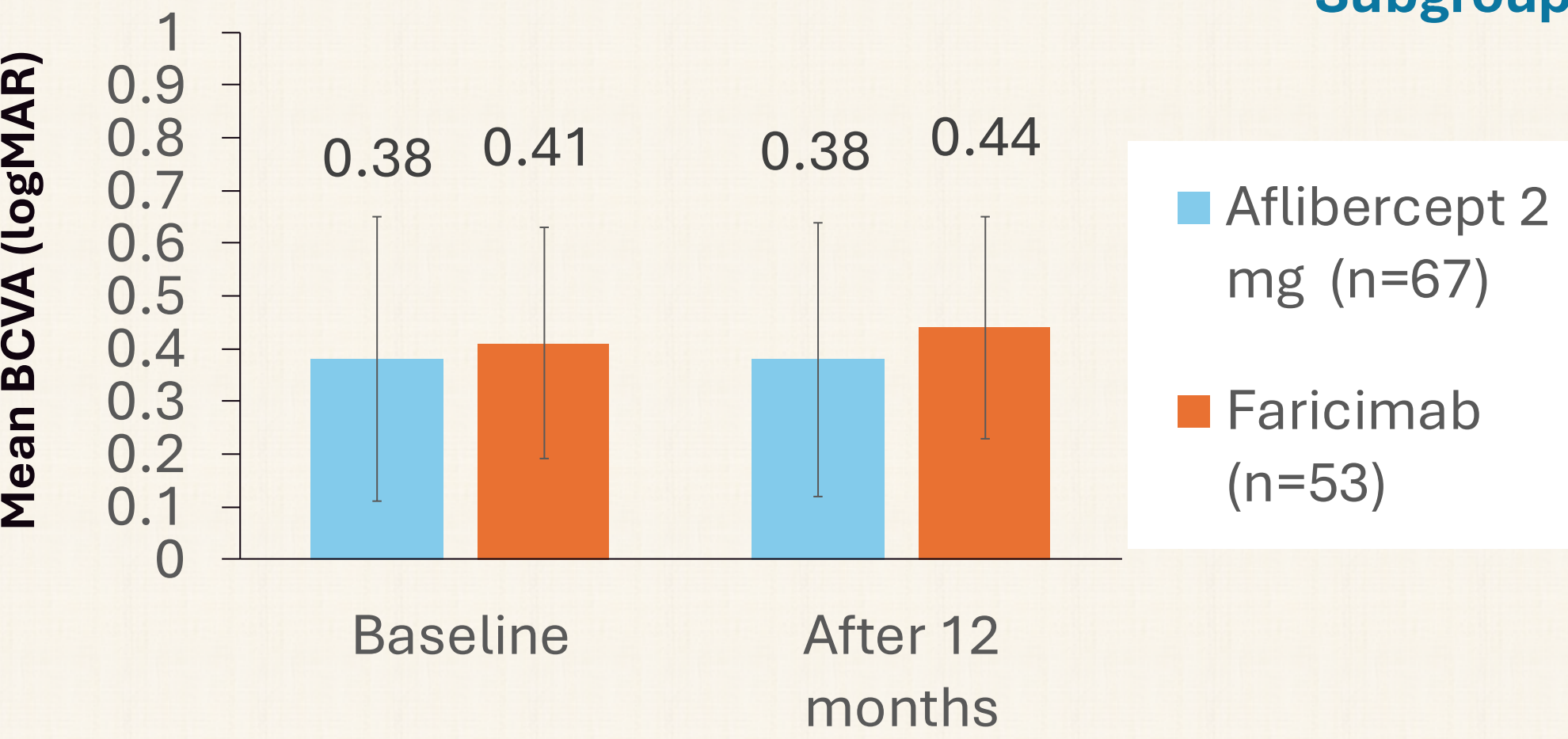
*Three eyes with adverse events and three end-stage eyes were not included in the final analysis

1. Visual Acuity

Mean BCVA following switch to aflibercept 8 mg



Entire cohort

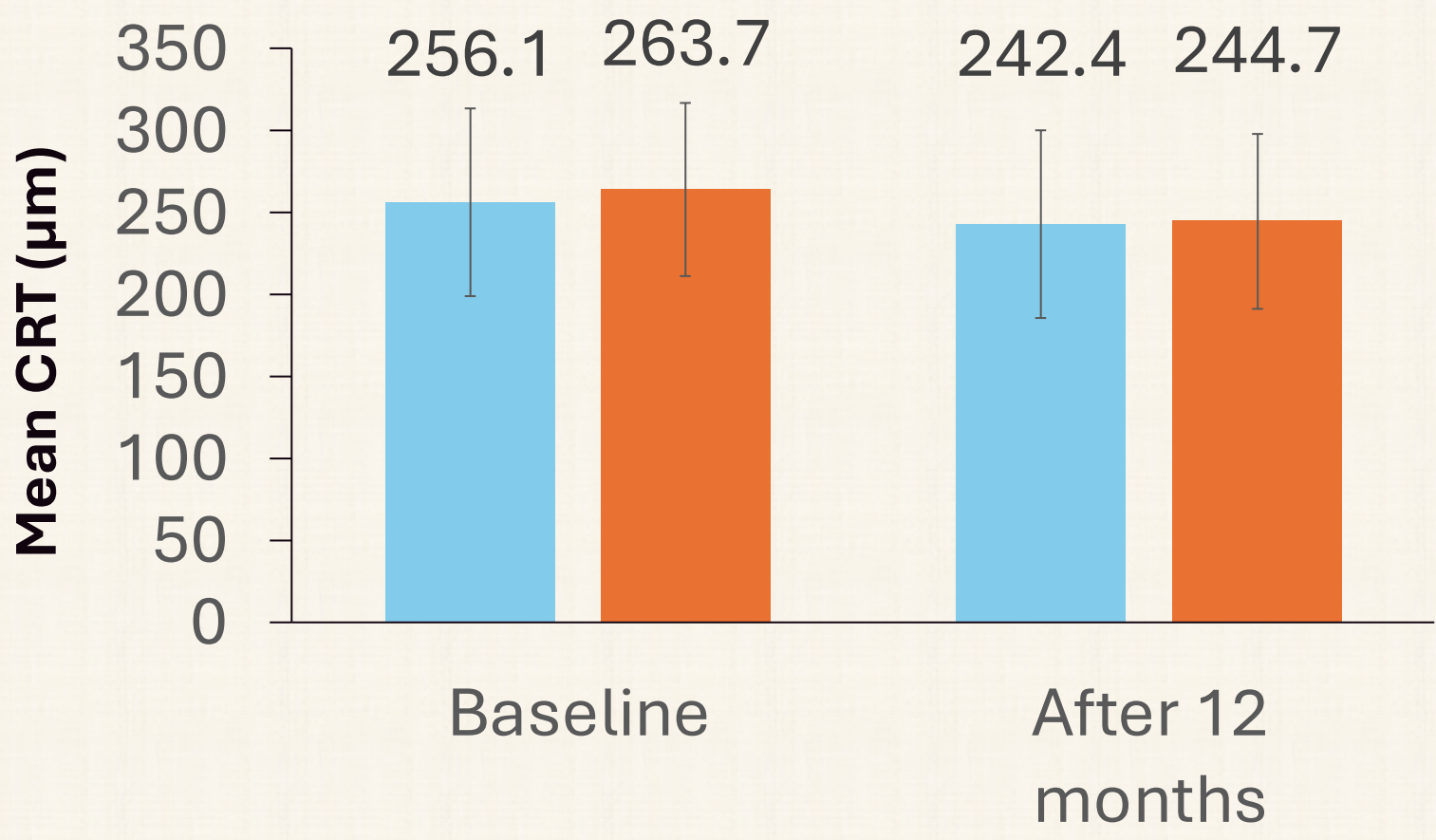
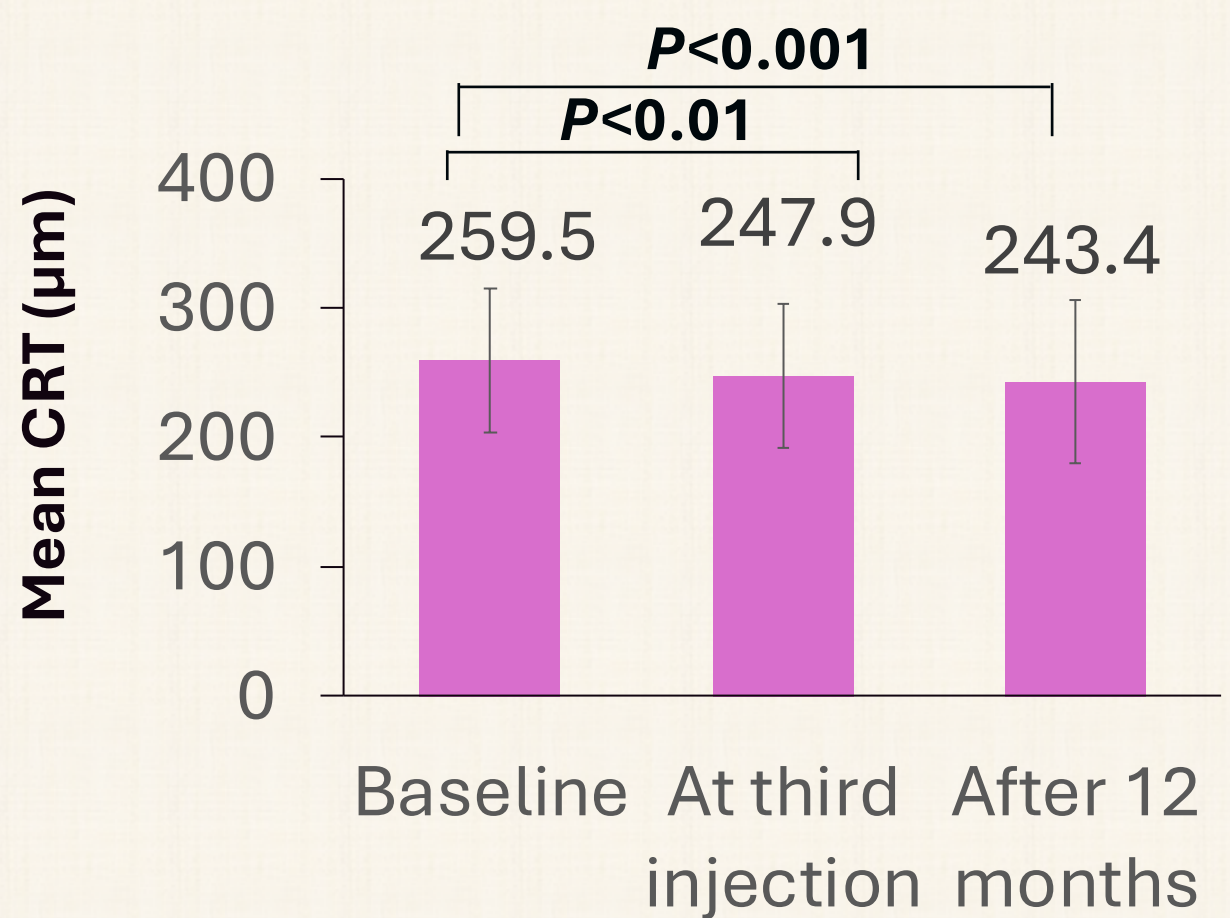


Subgroup analysis

BCVA maintained at 12 months (+0.01 logMAR, p=0.36), and **regardless of previous anti-VEGF treatment**

2. Anatomical outcomes: CRT

Mean CRT following switch to aflibercept 8 mg



Statistically significant reduction of CRT at 12 months (−16.1 µm, p<0.001), and **regardless of previous anti-VEGF treatment**

Safety profile:

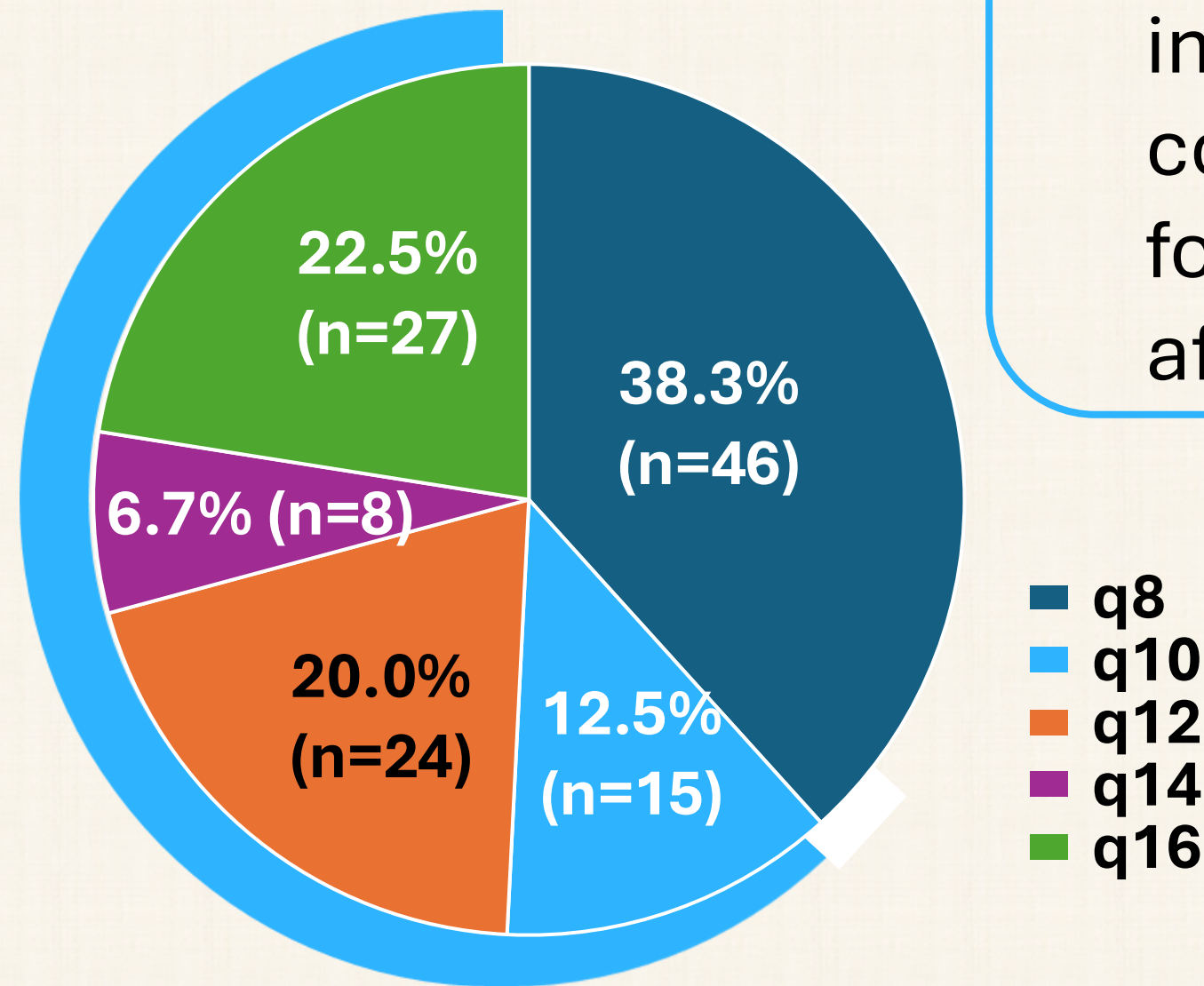
- 2 submacular haemorrhages
- 1 endophthalmitis (fully resolved with treatment)

3a. Treatment Intervals extension (entire cohort)

Mean last treatment interval at the final visit (at 12 months) following switch to aflibercept 8 mg (n=120)

- **61.7%** of eyes (n=74) achieved last treatment intervals of **≥q10**
- **49.2%** of eyes (n=59) achieving intervals of **≥q12**

- The **mean last treatment interval** among those who **achieved extension of ≥q10 at the final visit** was **13.3 weeks** (n=74)



- **11.3 weeks (n=120):** The mean treatment interval for the entire cohort at 12 months following switch to aflibercept 8 mg

3b. Treatment Interval extension (subgroup analysis)

Proportions of eyes achieving last treatment interval extensions of ≥q10 and ≥q12 at the final visit following switch to aflibercept 8 mg	
Achieved interval extension ≥q10, n (%)	
Previous anti-VEGF treatment: Aflibercept 2 mg (n=67)	43 (64.2%)
Previous anti-VEGF treatment: Faricimab (n=53)	31 (58.5%)
Achieved interval extension ≥q12, n (%)	
Previous anti-VEGF treatment: Aflibercept 2 mg (n=67)	38 (56.7%)
Previous anti-VEGF treatment: Faricimab (n=53)	21 (39.6%)

56.7% of patients previously treated with **Aflibercept 2 mg** (n=67) achieved **interval extension ≥q12** with aflibercept 8 mg, compared to **39.6%** of those previously treated with **faricimab** (n=53)

Mean treatment interval among those who achieved interval extension >q8: **13.8 weeks** in patients previously treated with **aflibercept 2 mg** (n=67) **12.6 weeks** in patients previously treated with **faricimab** (n=53)

CONCLUSIONS

- Aflibercept 8mg maintained vision, reduced CRT, and allowed ≥q12 intervals in ~50% of suboptimal responders with nAMD at 12 months**
- Aflibercept 8mg shows similar safety profile to other anti-VEGF agents**