

Purpose:

Pivotal phase 3 trials for Faricimab and Aflibercept-8mg for treatment-naïve neovascular age related macular degeneration (nAMD) compared their efficacy against Aflibercept-2mg. Due to differing treatment protocols and outcome measures across trials, direct comparison of their efficacy remains challenging. This study aims to address this gap by comparing real-world outcomes of Faricimab and Aflibercept-8 mg in a treatment-naïve nAMD population.

Methods:

Retrospective case series of patients diagnosed with treatment-naïve nAMD between June 1st and October 31st, 2024 and treated with Faricimab and Aflibercept-8mg at a single tertiary centre. The choice of agent was clinician preference. Based on local departmental protocol, all cases had an initial loading dose of three-monthly injections followed by a review one month later. Regression models were used to identify predictors of clinical outcomes.

Table 1. Vision and OCT parameters pre-treatment and post-loading of eyes treated with faricimab and aflibercept 8 mg.

		ETDRS, median (IQR)	Central Macular Thickness, µm; median (IQR)	Intraretinal Fluid, present, No. (%)	Subretinal Fluid, present, No. (%)	Any Macular Fluid present (IRF or SRF), No. (%)	PED Height, median (IQR)	SRF Height, median (IQR)
Overall (n=151)	Pre-treatment	60 (48-73)	347 (301-413)	80 (53)	117 (77)	151 (100)	229 (113-327)	111 (72-165)
	Post-loading	70 (54-75)	255 (228-280)	17 (11)	12 (8)	26 (15)	51 (0-89)	0 (0-0)
p value		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
Faricimab (n= 78)	Pre-treatment	65 (52-74)	330 (293-381)	37 (47)	69 (88)	78 (100)	234 (149-310)	107 (69-176)
	Post-loading	70 (58-75)	253 (221-276)	10 (13)	7 (9)	15 (19)	55 (0-89)	0 (0-0)
p value		0.0008	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
Aflibercept 8 mg (n=73)	Pre-treatment	59 (45-70)	368 (311-436)	43 (59)	48 (66)	73 (100)	161 (104-423)	116 (84-163)
	Post-loading	67 (52-75)	258 (231-283)	7 (10)	5 (7)	11 (15)	0 (0-103)	0 (0-0)
p value		<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0003	<0.0001

PED, Pigment Epithelial Detachment; SRF, Subretinal Fluid

Results:

A total of 151 eyes (144 patients) were included: 78 eyes treated with Faricimab and 73 with Aflibercept-8mg. Median BCVA improved for both Faricimab, 65 to 70 letters (p=0.0008) and Aflibercept-8mg, 59 to 67 letters (p=<0.0001).

Similarly, median CMT improved for both drugs (Faricimab: 330 to 253 microns (p=<0.0001) and Aflibercept-8mg: 368 to 258 microns (p=<0.0001)).

Collectively, the presence of any fluid reduced from 100% to 15%, subfoveal PED height reduced from 229µm to 51µm and SRF height reduced from 111µm to 0µm (p's<0.0001).

Injection of Faricimab versus Aflibercept 8mg was not significantly associated with any of the outcomes.

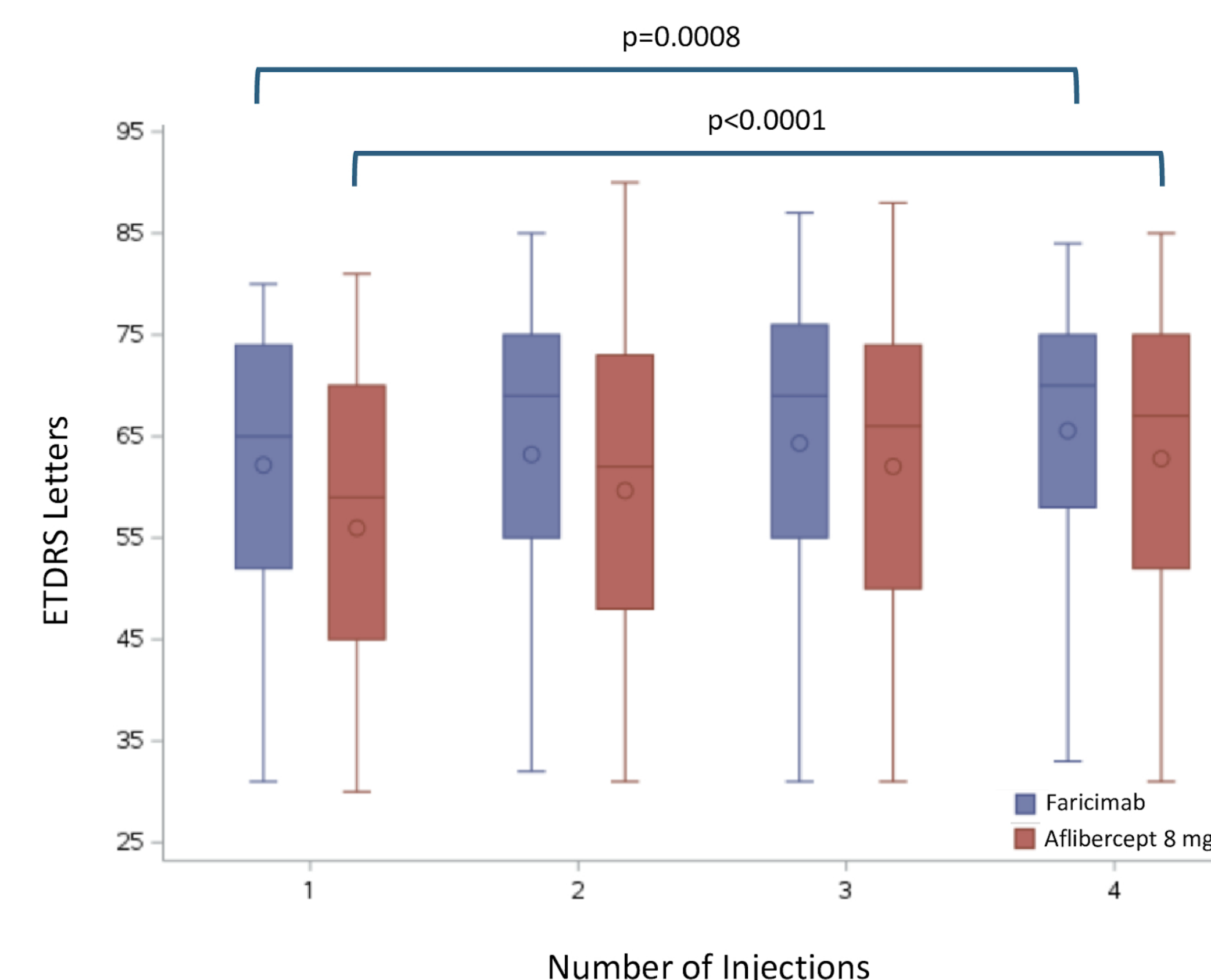


Fig 1. Change in visual acuity during the course of intravitreal injection treatment with faricimab and aflibercept 8mg

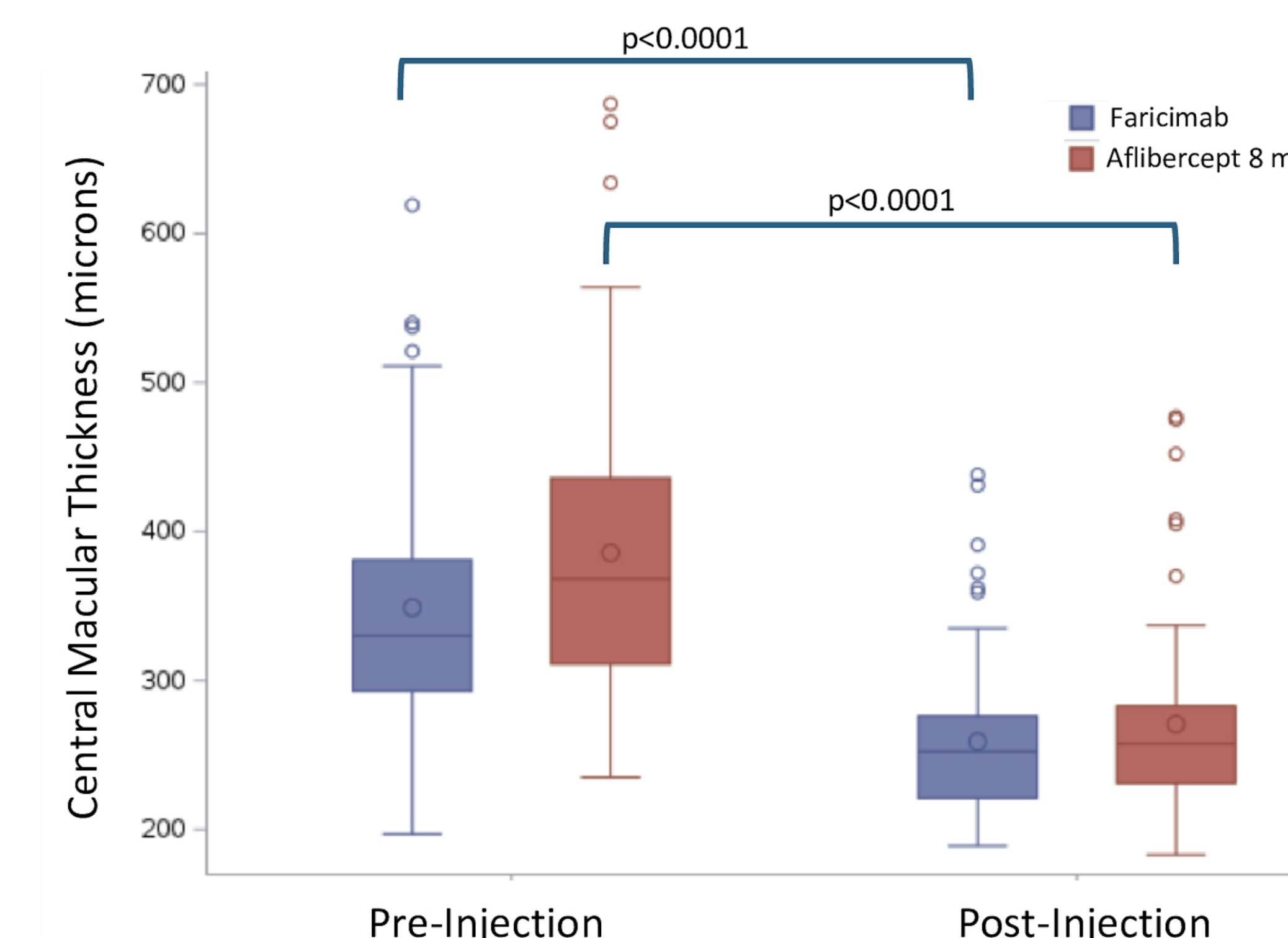


Fig 2. Change in CMT pre-treatment compared to post-loading for faricimab compared to aflibercept 8mg

Conclusion:

According to this real-world, single-centre study carried out under a standardised loading protocol, Faricimab and Aflibercept-8 mg produce similar early improvements in visual and anatomical outcomes in treatment-naïve nAMD.