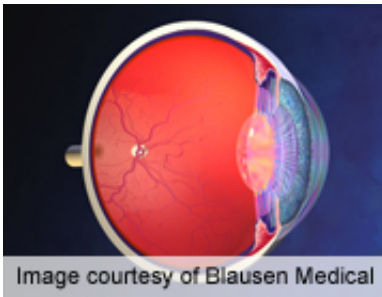


# Long-term ranibizumab beneficial for macular edema

October 11 2012

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Long-term aggressive treatment of patients with macular edema with ranibizumab during a third year correlates with reduced mean foveal thickness and improved best-corrected visual acuity, according to research published online Oct. 8 in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*.

(HealthDay)—Long-term aggressive treatment of patients with macular edema with ranibizumab during a third year correlates with reduced mean foveal thickness (FTH) and improved best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA), according to research published online Oct. 8 in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*.

Diana V. Do, M.D., of the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues conducted a follow-up of outcomes from the [Ranibizumab](#) for Edema of the Macula in Diabetes study from year two (month 24) to year three (month 36) to assess the benefit of increased follow-up. Participants included 28

patients who received ranibizumab (0.5 mg monthly if FTH was 250  $\mu$ m or greater), 22 patients who received laser treatment, and 24 patients who received ranibizumab plus laser treatment.

The researchers found that ranibizumab-treated patients displayed a significant mean BCVA improvement of 10.3 letters at month 36 compared with only 7.2 letters at month 24. Mean FTH was reduced from 352 to 282  $\mu$ m at months 36 and 24, respectively. No statistically significant difference was observed for BCVA and FTH between the ranibizumab-plus-laser group and the laser-only group. However, ranibizumab-treated patients required significantly more injections than laser-treated patients (5.4 versus 2.3 injections), but not significantly more than the ranibizumab-plus-laser group.

"Long-term visual outcomes for treatment of [diabetic macular edema](#) with ranibizumab are excellent, but many patients require frequent injections to optimally control edema and maximize vision," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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