



# **SUNCOAST SEMINAR**

Presented by the  
**Pinellas Optometric  
Association**

**Course Syllabus**

# Suncoast Seminar 2024

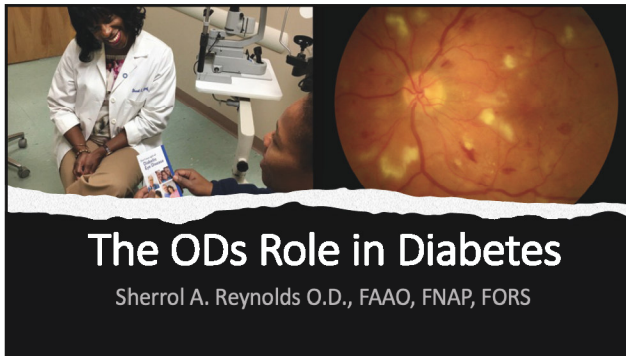
## Schedule of Events

### Saturday, April 27, 2024

- 7:45 am – 8:15 am **Registration**  
**Continental Breakfast** - sponsored by Eye Institute of West Florida  
Exhibit Hall open
- 8:15 am – 9:55 am **Co-Managing the Light Adjustable Lens (90938-PO)**  
T. Hunter Newsom, M.D., Brian Szabo, D.O., and Eric Fazio, O.D.
- 9:55 am – 10:40 am **Break** - sponsored by Updegraff Vision  
Exhibit Hall open
- 10:40 am – 12:20 pm **Emerging Trends in Macular Disease (TQ) (90790-TD)**  
Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D.
- 12:20 pm – 1:10 pm **Lunch** - sponsored by St. Luke's Cataract & Laser Institute  
Exhibit Hall open
- 1:10 pm – 1:20 pm **Lighthouse of Pinellas Update**
- 1:20 pm – 1:30 pm **F.O.A. Update**
- 1:30 pm – 3:10 pm **Eye on Systemic Disease (TQ) (90791-SD)**  
Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D.
- 3:10 pm – 3:30 pm **Break** - sponsored by Sight360
- 3:30 pm – 5:10 pm **The ODs Role in Diabetes (TQ) (86739-TD)**  
Sherrol A. Reynolds, O.D.

### Sunday, April 28, 2024

- 7:30 am – 8:00 am **Registration**  
**Continental Breakfast** - sponsored by Next Vision Instruments
- 8:00 am – 9:40 am **Neural Pearls (TQ) (89379-NO)**  
Joe Sowka, O.D.
- 9:40 am – 10:00 am **Break** – sponsored by Suncoast Seminar
- 10:00am – 11:40 am **Prevention of Medical Errors (89825-EJ)**  
Joe Sowka, O.D.
- 11:40 am – 12:00 pm **Break** – sponsored by Suncoast Seminar
- 12:00 pm – 1:40 pm **Florida Jurisprudence (89275-EJ)**  
Joe Sowka, O.D.



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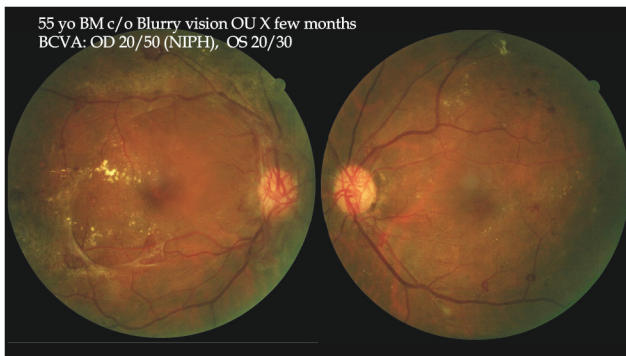
**Disclosure statement**

Sherrol A. Reynolds OD, FAAO, FNAP, FORS

Serve on the speaker bureau, advisory or contributed to the board of:  
 Vision Service Plan (VSP), American Diabetes Association (ADA),  
 Allergan (AbbVie Company)

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO Diabetes-Related Eye Care**

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**Poll Question #1**

Approximately what percentage of T2DM patients have retinopathy at time of diagnosis?

- A. 5%
- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 33 %
- E. I don't know

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In 2017, doctors of optometry

**Optometrists serve as the FRONT-LINE**

retinopathy in patients who were not aware they had it.

-Samuel D. Pierce, O.D.  
 Nov/Dec 2018 • Volume 5, Number 8 • aoa.org

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**Why we are here today**

- Diabetes retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in adults aged 20-74 worldwide.
- Diabetic macular edema (DME) is the leading cause of vision loss among patients with DR

**AGENDA:**

- ▶ Provide the most up-to-date information on diabetes and diabetes-related retinal disease (DRD).
- ▶ Discuss the ODs role in Diabetes.
- ▶ Discuss the latest in imaging technologies for early detection of DRD.
- ▶ OD's role coordination of care for patients with DRD.

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### Diabetes Prevalence Expected to Double Globally by 2050

June 22, 2023  
Hayden E. Klein

Article

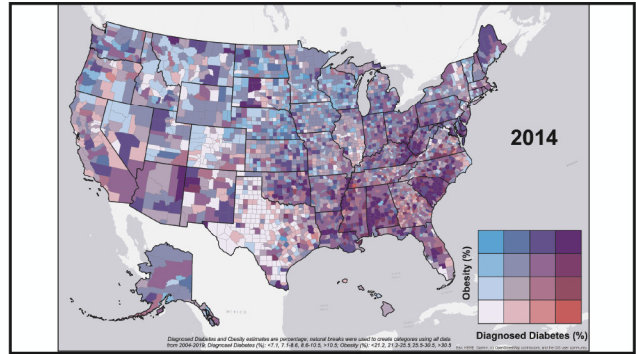
New estimates predict that type 2 diabetes prevalence will more than double in the next 30 years, from 529 million people in 2021 to 1.3 billion in 2050.

The number of people living with diabetes is expected to more than double globally by 2050, according to research published today in *The Lancet*.

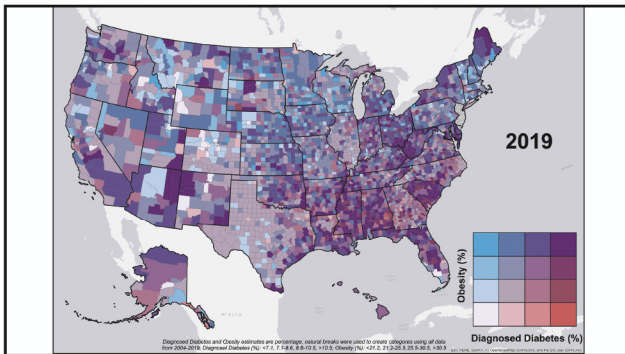
New estimates predict the number will jump from 529 million people living with diabetes in 2021 to at least 1.3 billion in 2050. Researchers also do not expect any countries to see a drop in age-standardized diabetes rates over the next 3 decades.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Diabetes Statistics Report website: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/reports/index.html> Accessed October 9, 2023  
American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2023;46(Supplement\_1):S203-S215  
International Diabetes Federation. ADA 13<sup>th</sup> edition  
Available from <https://www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/what-is-diabetes/facts-figures.html>. Accessed 9 October 2023

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### TYPES OF DIABETES

<b>Type 1 Diabetes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autoimmune destruction of pancreatic <math>\beta</math>-cells results in significantly decreased insulin secretion</li> <li>Exogenous insulin (injection) is necessary to sustain life</li> <li>Represents only 8-10% of all DM</li> <li>Can occur at any age, with myriad of acute symptoms</li> </ul>
<b>Type 2 Diabetes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results from insulin resistance at cellular receptor sites, as well as decreased insulin secretion (or absolute loss)</li> <li>Represents ~90% of all DM</li> <li>Commonly seen in patients over 40 years; incidence increases with age and obesity</li> </ul>
<b>Gestational Diabetes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>\beta</math>-cell dysfunction and insulin resistance during pregnancy</li> <li>Occurs in ~4% of all pregnancies in second and third trimester</li> <li><b>40-60% risk of developing Type II DM within 5 years postpartum</b></li> </ul>
<b>Less common forms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Genetic defects of <math>\beta</math>-cell function: latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA), monogenic forms (maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY), exocrine pancreatic diseases, endocrinopathies, drug- or chemical-induced, Other rare forms</b></li> <li><b>Often misdiagnosed as type 1 or 2 diabetes</b></li> </ul>
<b>Prediabetes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than normal blood sugar level. It's not high enough to be considered type 2 diabetes</li> </ul>

American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care. 2024 Jan;147(1):e11552-576.

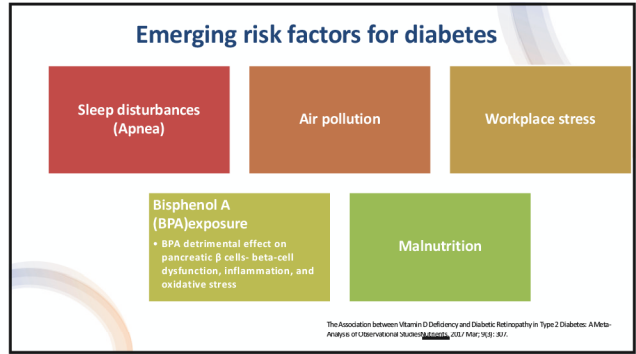
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### RISK FACTORS FOR DIABETES

- Age
- Family history/ **Genetics**
- Specific ethnic backgrounds
  - African American
  - Native American
  - Hispanic
  - Asian American
  - Pacific Islander
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Obesity
- Pertinent medical history
  - Obesity/non-alcoholic fatty acid liver disease
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Hypertension
  - High cholesterol
  - Polycystic ovarian syndrome (POS)
  - Psychiatric illness
  - Gestational DM
  - Impaired fasting glucose/impaired glucose tolerance
  - Smoking

Diabetes Care 2023;46(Supplement\_1):S203-S215

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<h3>Emerging risk factors for diabetes</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical nutrition therapy (MNT): has a direct effect in preventing or slowing diabetes complications including DR.</li> <li>Supplements may also have an effect on the prevention and progression of DR (vitamins A, B, C, and D; fiber; taurine; alpha-lipoic acid; lutein/zeaxanthin; others)</li> <li>Vitamin D deficiency             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low levels linked with high HbA1C levels (test showing blood sugar levels over weeks-months)</li> <li>Low vitamin D levels (&lt; 20 ng/mL) have been found to be associated with increased severity of DR</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">Br J Ophthalmol. 2016 Feb;100(2):227-34 J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol 2017 Oct;173:280-285.</p>
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#### COVID-19 in people with diabetes: understanding the reasons for worse outcomes

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, much attention has been on people with diabetes because of their increased risk of severe outcomes. This is due to the fact that people with diabetes have a higher risk of complications, such as pneumonia, kidney failure, and cardiovascular disease. This is because of the fact that people with diabetes have a higher risk of complications, such as pneumonia, kidney failure, and cardiovascular disease. This is because of the fact that people with diabetes have a higher risk of complications, such as pneumonia, kidney failure, and cardiovascular disease.

- Risk of Death from COVID-19 Four Times Greater for Those with Diabetes
- Nearly 40% of people who have died with COVID-19 had diabetes



**Individuals with Diabetes are Up to Four Times More Likely to Develop Long COVID-19**

www.diabetes-embryo.com | 82+ YEARS OF SERVICE

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#### Fast Progression of Diabetic Retinopathy with SARS-CoV-2 Infection

**Authors:** \*Yigit C. Akduman, William J. Anderson, Sandeep Saxena\*

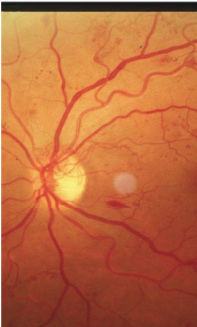
1. Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
2. King George's Medical University, Lucknow, India  
\*Correspondence to: yakkduman@gmail.com

**Disclosure:** The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

**Received:** 09.10.20  
**Accepted:** 15.01.21

**Keywords:** Diabetic retinopathy, macular oedema, neovascularisation, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, vitreous haemorrhage.

**Citation:** BMJ Diabet. 2021; DOI:10.3399/bmjdiabet.20-00254



**Abstract**

COVID-19 is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and has been shown to affect a multitude of organ systems. It is often associated with vasculitis or thromboembolic disease with resultant tissue hypoxia. This report presents a case of fast progression diabetic retinopathy in the case of a SARS-CoV-2 infection. The findings conclude that patients with diabetes should be more frequently monitored for emergence or progression of diabetic retinopathy if they present with COVID-19.

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## Predicting the Onset of Diabetes



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### Newly discovered genetic markers help pinpoint diabetes risks, complications

**Date:** February 19, 2024

**Source:** University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Summary:** In the largest genome-wide association study to date on Type 2 diabetes, a team of international researchers has located 1,289 genetic markers associated with Type 2 diabetes (145 of which are newly identified) and generated risk scores for diabetes complications.

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from research organizations

#### Blood test could determine diabetes risks

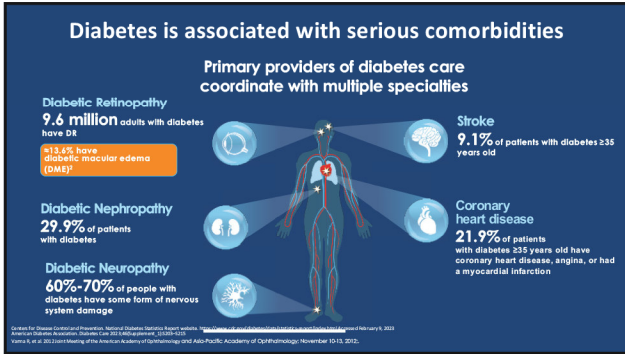
**Date:** February 21, 2024  
**Source:** Edith Cowan University

**Summary:** A blood test could potentially be used to assess a patient's risk of type 2 diabetes, a new study has found.

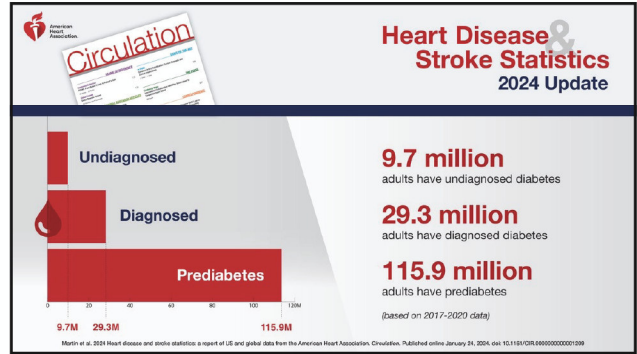
- Inflammatory biomarker currently used to predict the risk of type 2 diabetes is **high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (CRP)**
- A study by ECU researcher Dan Wu investigated the connection between systematic inflammation, assessed by joint cumulative **high-sensitivity CRP** and another biomarker called **monocyte to high-density lipoprotein ratio (MHR)**
- concomitant increases in MHR and CRP presented significantly higher incidence rates and risks of diabetes

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### Every 24 Hours...

- 4557 adults are diagnosed with diabetes.
- 136 people begin treatment for end-stage renal disease.
- 200 non-traumatic lower-limb amputations are performed.
- 641 people die from diabetes, or diabetes is a contributing cause of their death.
- 55 people with diabetes become blind!**

© 2022 National Diabetes Statistics Report 2019. Estimates of diabetes and its burden in the United States, 2014. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-reports/>

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### What percentage of Diabetics are not getting an annual dilated eye exam?

**60%**

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OCT 20, 2016

### Sixty Percent of Americans with Diabetes Skip Annual Sight-Saving Exams

American Academy of Ophthalmology reiterates the importance of dilated eye exams in preventing vision loss

CHICAGO – People with diabetes are at increased risk of developing serious eye diseases, yet most do not have sight-saving, annual eye exams, according to a large study presented this week at AAO 2016, the 120<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This is especially timely as the Academy is reiterating the importance of eye exams during the month of November, which is observed as Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month.

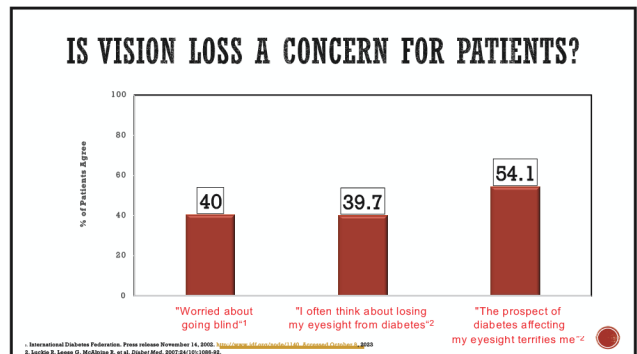
Researchers at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia have found that more than half of patients with the disease skip these exams. They also discovered that patients who smoke – and those with less severe diabetes and no eye problems – were most likely to neglect having these checks.

The researchers collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review the charts of close to 2,000 patients age 40 or older with type 1 and type 2 diabetes to see how many had regular eye exams. Their findings over a four-year period revealed that:

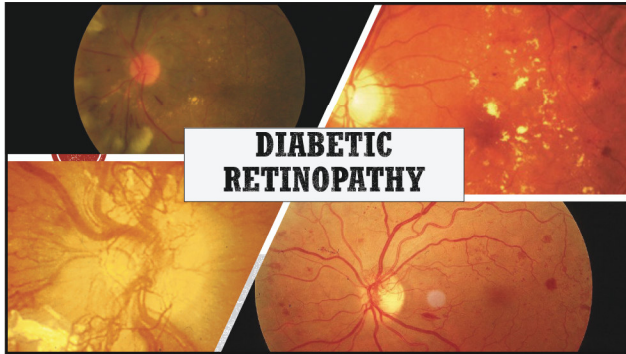
- Fifty-eight percent of patients did not have regular follow-up eye exams
- Smokers were 20 percent less likely to have exams
- Those with less-severe disease and no eye problems were least likely to follow recommendations
- Those who had diabetic retinopathy were 30 percent more likely to have follow-up exams

- Fifty-eight percent of patients did not have regular follow-up eye exams
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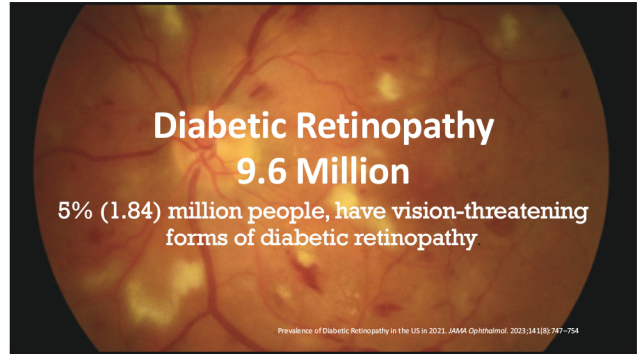
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**Prevalence of Diabetic Retinopathy in the US in 2021**

Elizabeth A. Lundeen, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Zeb Burke-Conte, BS<sup>2</sup>; David B. Rein, PhD, MPA<sup>1</sup>; et al.  
 > Author Affiliations  
 JAMA Ophthalmol. 2023;141(8):747-754. doi:10.1001/jamaophth.2023.3289

**2060 approximately 60.6 million US adults, or 17.9% of the adult population will have diabetes**

**Findings** The study team estimated that 9.60 million people in the US (26.43% of those with diabetes) had diabetic retinopathy and 1.84 million people (5.06% of those with diabetes) had vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy in 2021. There was marked variation in prevalence across states and the number of people living with diabetes-related eye disease grew substantially since prevalence was last estimated in 2004.

**Meaning** The US prevalence of diabetes-related eye disease remains high and may grow in the coming decades due to the increasing burden of diabetes among youth and adults.

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**DIABETIC RETINOPATHY**

- Classification of Diabetic Retinopathy
  - Non-proliferative DR
    - Mild- Microaneurysms (MAs) only
    - Moderate
      - Hemorrhages, exudates and/or microaneurysms
      - Cotton wool spot (CWS)
      - Venous beading (VB) or intraretinal microvascular abnormalities (IRMA)
  - Severe
    - Very Severe (4-2-1)
      - Severe findings without neovascularization
      - >50% will progress to proliferative DR in one year

Adapted with permission from Wilkinson CP, Ferris FL 3, Klein RE, et al. Proposed international clinical diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema severity scales. Ophthalmology 2010;117:1803.

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**DIABETIC RETINOPATHY SEVERITY SCALES**

International Scale <sup>1</sup>					
No DR	Mild NPDR	Moderate NPDR	Severe NPDR	PDR	
10,12	14,15,20	35	43	47	53
60,61	65	71	75	81	85
1 Healthy	2 Very mild	3 Mild	4 Moderate	5 Moderately severe	6 Severe
				7 Mild	8 Moderate
					9 High-risk

Adapted with permission from Wilkinson CP, Ferris FL 3, Klein RE, et al. Proposed international clinical diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema severity scales. Ophthalmology 2010;117:1803.  
 2023RS Report Number 10. Ophthalmology. 1991;May;98(5):796-806  
 The Diabetes Research and Clinical Trial Research Group. A Multicenter of the Adult Health Classification of Diabetes.

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10, 12 DR Absent	14, 15, 20 DR Questionable	35 Mild NPDR	43 Moderate NPDR	47 Moderately Severe NPDR	53 Severe NPDR
60, 61 Mild PDR	65 Moderate PDR	71 High-risk PDR	75 High-risk PDR	81 Advanced PDR	85 Advanced PDR

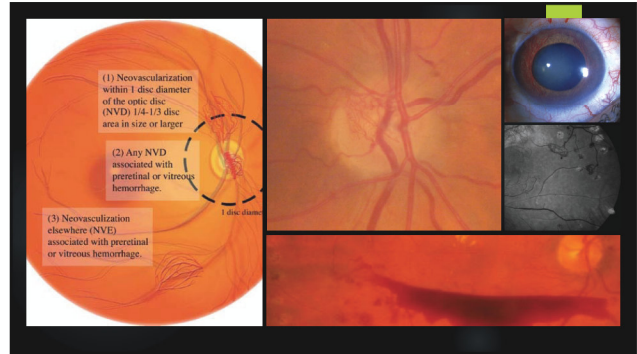
2023RS Report Number 10. Ophthalmology. 1991;May;98(5):796-806

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Disease Severity	Definition	Management	Natural History
<b>No retinopathy</b>	Diabetic retinopathy absent	12 months	
<b>Mild NPDR</b>	MAs only	12 months	*5% risk of progression to proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) within one year.
<b>Moderate NPDR</b>	MAs plus, exudates, cotton wool spots, retinal hemorrhages, intraretinal microvascular abnormality, venous beading	Three to six months *Depends on severity of signs, stability, systemic factors, and patient's glycemic control	*Up to 27 % risk of progression to proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) within one year.
<b>Severe NPDR (4-2-1) rule</b>	Severe retinal hemorrhages in four quadrants, or venous beading in at least two quadrants, or moderately severe intraretinal microvascular abnormality in at least one quadrant	Two to three months	*Proliferative diabetic retinopathy in up to 50% within a year

American Diabetes Association. Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines: Eye Care of the Patient With Diabetes Mellitus. www.diabetes.org/eye-care/eye-care-and-retinopathy/evidence-based-clinical-practice-guidelines/eye-care-of-the-patient-with-diabetes-mellitus. Accessed October 9, 2023.

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Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy		
<b>PDR</b>	<b>Neovascularization Vitreous Hemorrhage</b>  <b>High Risk:</b> 1. NVD > 1/4-to-1/3-disc area 2. Any NVD associated with vitreous or preretinal hemorrhage 3. Any NVE associated with vitreous or preretinal hemorrhage	<b>Retina referral within one week</b>  <b>Retina referral within one day to two days</b>

American Diabetes Association. Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines: Eye Care of the Patient With Diabetes Mellitus. www.diabetes.org/eye-care/eye-care-and-retinopathy/evidence-based-clinical-practice-guidelines/eye-care-of-the-patient-with-diabetes-mellitus. Accessed October 9, 2023.

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### Diabetes Eye Disease Risk

- Duration** of diabetes is a major risk factor associated with the development of DR.
- Total glycemic exposure** (A1C over time) is the key alterable risk factor associated with the development of DR.
- Obesity/BMI** is an alterable risk factor for the development of DR.

**The ABCs of diabetes:** A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking cessation are alterable risk factors associated with the development of DR.

- A** A1C levels
- B** Blood pressure
- C** Cholesterol
- S** Stop smoking

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### New in 2024

- HbA1c** near normal 6%
- CGM in patients on Insulin
  - Time in Range (TIR)
  - Target range: 70–180 mg/dL
  - Recommended TIR for most: >70%
  - Stricter BP targets (≤130/80)
- New lipid management recommendations- LDL <70 mg/dL in general and <55 mg/dL for those with preexisting atherosclerotic CVD
- Higher weight loss targets (up to 15%) based on the efficacy of and access to newer medications such as high-dose semaglutide and tirzepatide
- Screen for Sleep Apnea
- Social Determinant of Health (SDOH)

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### Glycemic Control

- Long-term benefits of meeting glycemic targets, including for eye health
- Optimizing glycemic control (near normal 6%)**
- Small reductions add up (effect of a 1% reduction on A1C in reducing microvascular and macrovascular complications)

A1C	DCCT 9—9.7%	UKPDS 8—9.7%
Retinopathy	63%	17–21%
Nephropathy	54%	24–33%
Neuropathy	60%	—
Macrovascular Disease (stroke, MI)	41%	16%

DCCT Research Group; Nathan DM, Genuth S, Lachin J, et al. N Engl J Med 1993;329:977-986  
UK Prospective Diabetes Study Group. Lancet 1998;352:854-865  
American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2023;46(supplement\_1):S120-1215

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### What is the average A1C in the US?

**Patient Perceptions of Current Disease Control in Poorly Controlled Diabetes**

- Average A1c was 9.9 (S.D. 1.7)%; no differences were noted based on income, education, disease duration, or complication history.
- 23.7% described their disease control as "good" or "excellent" in spite of an average A1c of 9.5%
- 50.0% had an A1c value of 7.0% or higher.

A1C	Total	18–44 years	45–64 years	≥65 years
<6.5%	342 (0.8–38.7)	38.7 (0.5–47.6)	30.5 (2.9–35.1)	36.9 (1.9–42.9)
6.5%–6.9%	15.8 (1.2–18.6)	14.7 (0.3–22.4)	14.0 (1.5–18.9)	17.4 (1.3–22.9)
7.0%–7.9%	23.1 (1.9–25.4)	12.9 (0.8–18.0)	22.1 (1.9–26.6)	25.4 (0.8–31.0)
8.0%–8.9%	132.1 (17.1–16.2)	12.9 (7.8–21.1)	13.7 (10.0–18.1)	12.4 (0.8–18.1)
9.0%–9.9%	44.3 (3.4–51.2)	4.5 (2.4–8.8)	19.2 (8.1–30.8)	3.1 (1.6–5.3)
≥10.0%	9.9 (8.1–12.1)	16.3 (10.8–23.9)	12.7 (9.3–16.6)	4.1 (2.9–4.8)

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### A1C is the gold standard

- American Diabetes Association emphasizes an incremental benefit to further lowering the A1C in selected individuals with no significant hypoglycemia to reach values as close to normal (<6.0%) as possible.
- Average of blood glucose ± (= glycation)
  - The "mean" by CGM can vary significantly in patients with same A1C
  - A1C is unreliable in patients with anemia, hemoglobinopathies, or iron deficiency.
  - Evidence shows that A1C differs among ethnic groups.
- HbA1c does not reveal glucose variability that has predictive power for DR and other diabetes complications

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### Continuous glucose monitoring (cgm)

- Sensor measures interstitial glucose levels continuously throughout the day.
- Wirelessly sends glycemic data to a monitor or smartphone app.
- May be connected to an insulin delivery system (hybrid closed-loop system, automating basal insulin delivery).
- Standardized reports allow patients and providers to identify glycemic trends and easily review the percentage of time spent above, in, or below a target glycemic range.

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### Time in Range (TIR)

- A new parameter to evaluate blood glucose control
- Indicates the percentage time a person's glucose value was within the target range during a defined period
- Target range: 70–180 mg/dL
- Recommended TIR for most: >70%

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### Time in range (TIR) and Complications

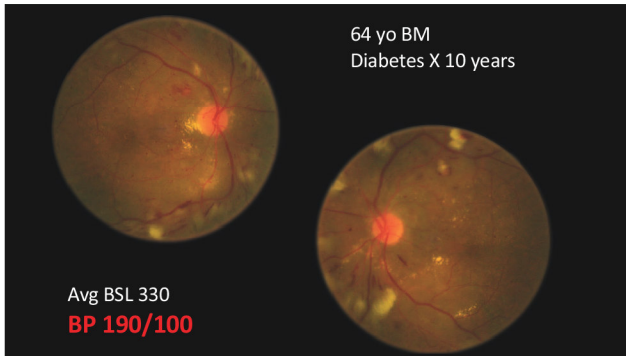
- The higher the TIR range percentage- the lower the risk of developing complications
- The lower the TIR range percentage, the higher the risk of developing complications
- Lu et al., 2018: patients with more advanced DR had significantly less TIR and higher measures of glycemic variability than those with less severe or no DR. TIR was significantly associated with prevalence of all stages of DR.

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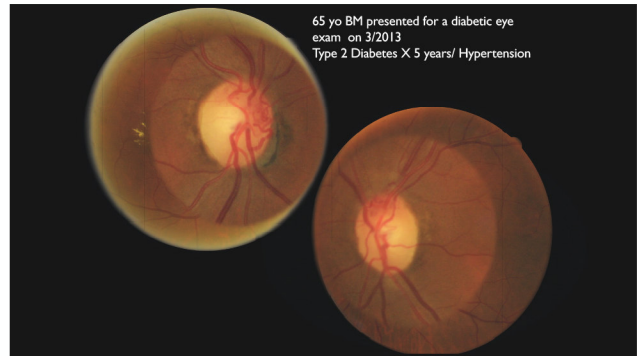
### Association of TIR and DRD

- Beck et al., 2019: analysis of data from the 1993 landmark Diabetes Control and Complications Trial.
- Computed TIR from 7-point blood glucose data that had been collected quarterly.
- Risk of DR was significantly higher in the conventional insulin therapy group than in the group receiving intensive insulin therapy.
- For every 10% lower TIR, the hazard rate of retinopathy progression increased by 64%.

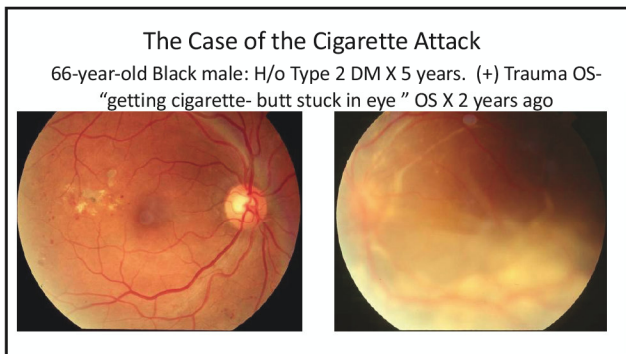
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### Asymmetric Diabetic Retinopathy

- Asymmetric retinopathy occur in 5-10% of diabetic patients increase risk of stroke
  - 2-4 times higher than people w/o diabetes
- Associated with carotid artery stenosis both ipsilateral and contralateral to the eye with worse DR
- Eyes with lower IOP may have increased risk of sight-threatening DR due to increased blood flow in compromised retinal capillary bed
- Protection also associated with prior chorioretinal scarring and high myopia

BMJ Ophthalmol. 2017;31(1):117-126. doi:10.1136/bmjoph-2016-000117

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**Long-term benefits of optimized blood pressure and serum lipid control to reduce the risk or slow the progression of DR**

- On-treatment target blood pressure goal is  $\leq 130/80$  mmHg
- ACE inhibitors and ARBs
- Obtain a lipid profile at initiation of statins or other lipid-lowering therapy
- New lipid management recommendations- LDL <70 mg/dL in general and <55 mg/dL for those with preexisting atherosclerotic CVD
- Simvastatin + Fenofibrate therapy lowers the risk of DR progression by 35% compared to simvastatin alone in patients with T2DM and high cardiovascular risk

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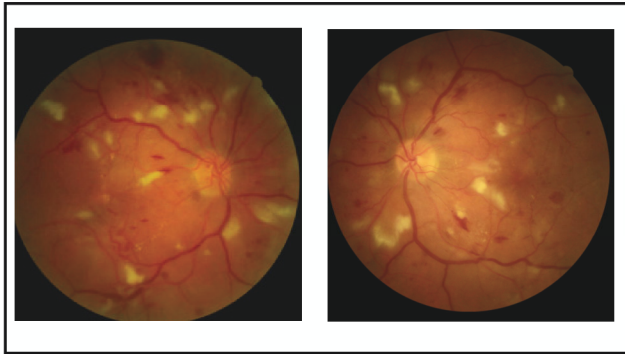
### Can Statins Cause Diabetes Mellitus?

-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase inhibitors

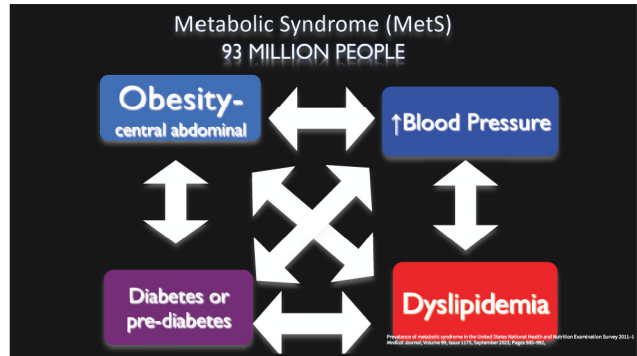
What Statin Is Best for People With Diabetes?

Diabetes Care. 2015;38(11):1117-1122. doi:10.2337/140117

48



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50

### Cardioprotective Medications

- Semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist, has been shown to reduce the risk of adverse cardiovascular events in patients with diabetes
- FDA Approves ORAL GLP-1 as First-Line Tx
- Oral semaglutide (Rybelsus®) was approved 1/12/23 as first-line medical Tx for T2DM
- PIONEER-6 cardiovascular outcomes trial (CVOT)
  - Showed a 20% risk reduction in MACE and 51% reduction in CV death over 72 weeks when added to usual care (all patients > 50 with CVD or > 60 with CV risk factors)
- SGLT2 Inhibitors –Invokana® (canagliflozin); Farxiga® (dapagliflozin); Jardiance® (empagliflozin)
  - Significantly reduce the risk of being hospitalized for congestive heart failure (CHF) and Reduce MI, Stroke, Heart Failure, End-stage Renal Disease and CV Death by 19-50%

EM of Oral Semaglutide on Cardiovascular Parameters and Their Mechanism in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: Rationale and Design of the Semaglutide Anti-Atherosclerotic Mechanisms of Action Study (SAMAS) Diabetes Ther. 2022 Apr;13(4):791-810

51



52

### Exercise and Diabetes: Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

3,234 study participants were overweight and had prediabetes

Two groups:

- Lifestyle intervention group- diet, exercise, and behavior modification
- 850 mg of Metformin twice a day

Result:

- Lifestyle intervention group- reduced their risk of developing diabetes by 58%
- Metformin reduced their risk of developing diabetes by 31%.

N Engl J Med 2002; 346:393-403

53

### THE "SKINNY SHOT": Weight loss drug in high demand, following viral TikTok videos

by Allison Miller | Fri, January 20th, 2023, 8:21 AM EST


Hollywood 2000

Mounjaro vs. Ozempic vs. Wegovy

25% Weight Loss with Once a Week Injection

Check the Saxenda® now with each new pen

54

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wegovy, Ozempic: Once a Week Injections-Potent Weight Loss Meds</b></li> <li>• Ozempic: Semaglutides (0.5mg, 1 mg or 2mg)</li> <li>• Glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RA)</li> <li>• Promotes the pancreas to release insulin             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only when glucose values are elevated</li> <li>• makes people feel fuller faster so they tend to eat less,</li> <li>• Reduces the amount of glucose made by the liver.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 25% weight loss from baseline</li> <li>• Wegovy- higher dose ( 2.4mg)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mounjaro (tirzepatide) injection</b></li> <li>• Activates both the glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) receptor</li> <li>• 5milligrams, 10 milligrams and 15 milligrams</li> <li>• Average Weight Loss of 60 Pounds Reported</li> <li>• 10/2023- FDA Approved</li> </ul> 
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55

## Cardioprotective Medications

### Weight-loss drug Wegovy can be marketed for heart benefits after FDA label update

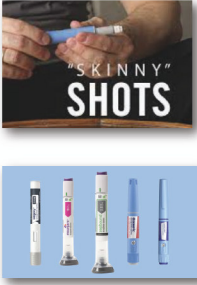
By Meg Terrill, CNN  
© 3 minute read - Updated 5:53 PM EST, Fri March 8, 2024

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### Complications

- Pancreatitis- Inflammation of the pancreas
- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)
- Serious allergic reactions
- Kidney problems (kidney failure)
- Severe stomach problems (stomach paralysis)
- Gallbladder problems



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December 14, 2022 | 2 min read SAVE

## Nearly half of adults with type 2 diabetes saw remission with calorie restriction, timing

Percentage of adults with type 2 diabetes achieving remission:

	Intervention	Controls
At 3-month follow-up	47.2%	2.8%
At 12-month follow-up	44.4%	0%

DIABETES AND INTERMITTENT FASTING

TYPE 1, TYPE 2, & PREDIABETES


Effect of an Intermittent Calorie-restricted Diet on Type 2 Diabetes Remission: A Randomized Controlled Trial, The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, 2022

58

### Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome (OSAS) and Diabetes

- Short sleep (< 5.5 hours) triples the likelihood of T2DM in observational studies after all controls.
- Severe obstructive sleep apnea increased incident diabetes 71% over 13 years independently of adiposity.
- Both short (<5.5 hrs) and long (> 9 hrs) sleep duration are significantly associated with adiposity & insulin resistance.

Obesity – the metabolic syndrome



European Endocrinology, 2013;9(2):107-9  
Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2018 May;139:195-202

59

### ESAP: Easy Sleep

- 100% specificity for mild OSAS in T2DM (n = compared with PSG)
- Neck circumference > 17/16 inches in males, 100% specific
- Both more specific but less sensitive than BM STOP-BANG
- A positive ESAP was defined as a 1+ cm gap v patient encircled their hands around the neck

Table 1. Classic STOP-Bang Score


<b>S</b> Snoring
<b>T</b> Tiredness
<b>O</b> Observed apnea
<b>P</b> High blood pressure
<b>B</b> Body mass index >35 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>a</b> Age >50 years
<b>n</b> Neck circumference >40 cm
<b>g</b> Gender, male

Sleep Disord. 2019; 2019: 3184-382.

60

### OSAS and DR/DME

- Studies found DR rates were 2-2.5X higher in T2DM patients (n = 230) with untreated/under-treated OSA followed for 4 yrs
  - After all adjustments, OSA increased odds of progressing to severe NPDR/PDR 5-fold
- CSME patients with confirmed OSA & Tx with grid laser gained an extra line of VA if treated with CPAP > 2.5 hrs/night @ 6 months
- DME patients (n = 30 receiving Avastin), the probability of OSA symptoms was directly proportional to the # of required injections



Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2017 Oct;196(7):892-900.  
 Review. 2018 Dec;342(12):2423-30.  
 Respiration. 2019;84(4):275-82.

61

### Social Determinants Of Health Affect the Patient Care Journey and Can Drive A Majority Of Overall Patient Outcomes

**Patient Outcomes Drivers**

**80%** Social Determinants

**20%** Clinical

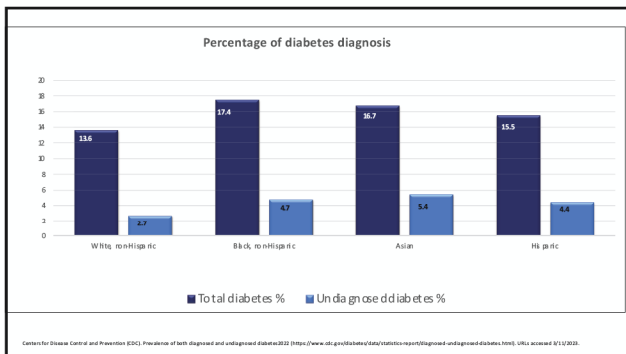
**Factors that contribute to underutilization of care**

- Trust
- Patient-provider communication
- Fear of medical or surgical treatment
- Transportation issues
- Lack of insurance/cost
- Other health problems
- Poor social support structure
- Cultural and language barriers
- Lower literacy level

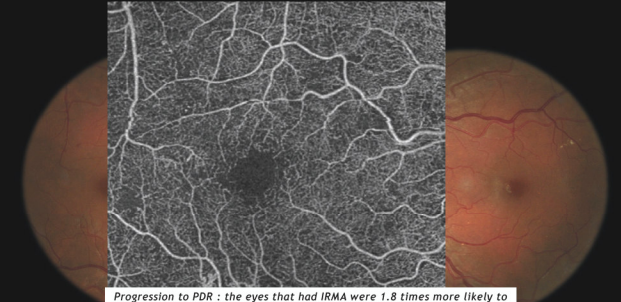
**Despite being at risk for higher visual impairment and blindness, Black and Hispanic/Latino patients are less likely than White patients to be seen by an ophthalmologist or have a dilated exam.**

Diabetes Care. 2018;41(10):2011-2016. doi:10.2337/dci.18.0001. https://doi.org/10.2337/dci.18.0001. Accessed April 18, 2023.

62



63

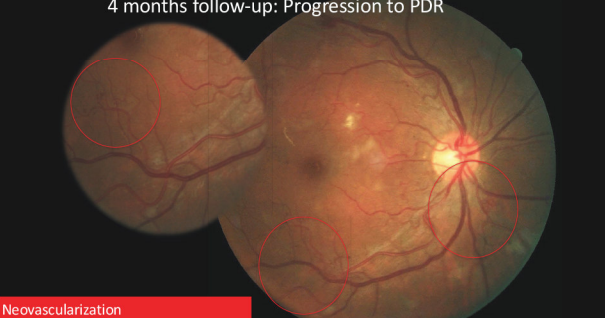


**Progression to PDR : the eyes that had IRMA were 1.8 times more likely to develop PDR than the eyes with venous beading**

Lee, C. Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2017

64

#### 4 months follow-up: Progression to PDR



Neovascularization

65



Three-years later

66

**OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY (OCTA)**

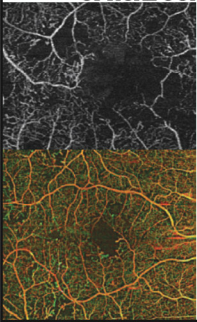
**Diabetic Retinopathy**

- Vascular anomalies (loops & dilations)
- Microaneurysms (MAs)
- Neovascularization
- Capillary dropout & FAZ enlargement

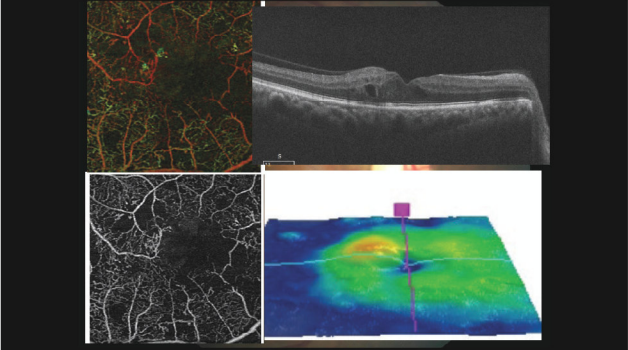
Evaluation of subclinical DR may change follow-up or how the PCP manage the patient

Color code points to area of abnormality

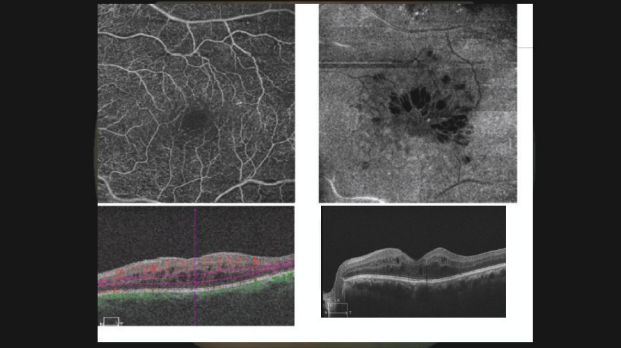
Microaneurysms are green because they are in DEEP layer



67

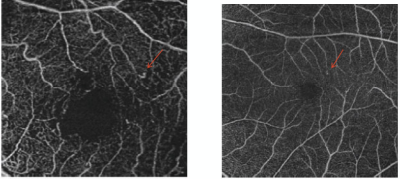


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**MAS DUE TO THEIR SIZE, SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN A 3X3**

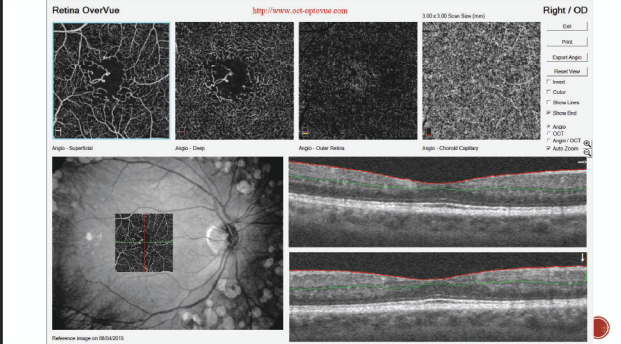


3X3 vs 6X6

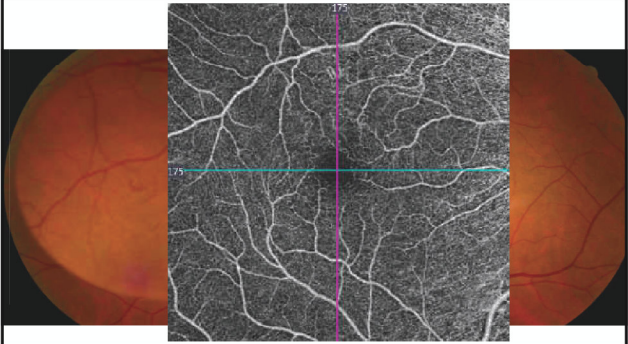
70

Retina OverVue <http://www.optovue.com> 3.0 (4.0) (Scan Time: 0:00)

Right / OD



71



72

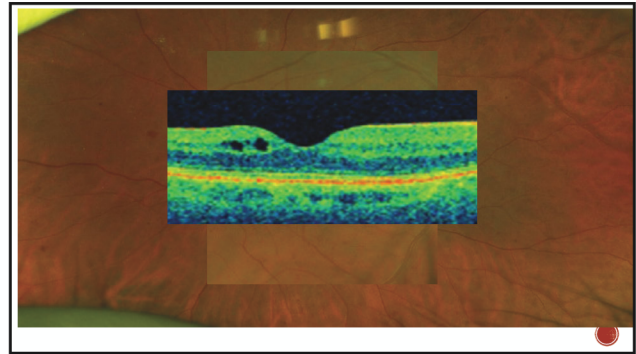
• Eyes with predominantly peripheral lesions- PPLs (defined as outside of ETDRS 7 standard field) had a 4.7-fold increased risk of progression to proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR) over 4 years.  
*Ophthalmology*, 2015 May;122(5):949-56.

• Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Retina Network (DRCR.net) Protocol AA-peripheral lesions (PPL) using ultra-widefield (UWF) color retinal imaging were not predictive of significant, 2-step worsening on the Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale (DRSS)

• FA-PPL but not color-image PPL have predictive value for NPDR progression and should be included in future DR studies.

JAMA Ophthalmol. 2022;140(10):946-954. Published correction in JAMA Ophthalmol. Published online November 17, 2022.

73



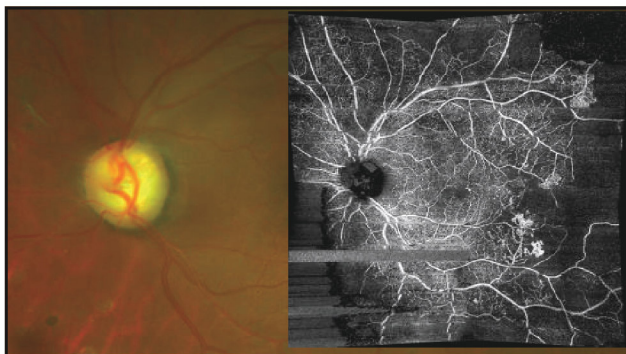
74



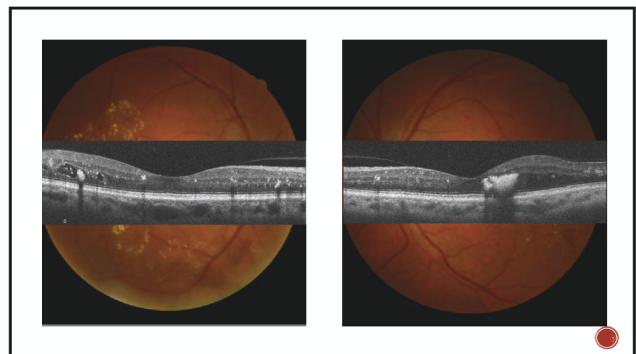
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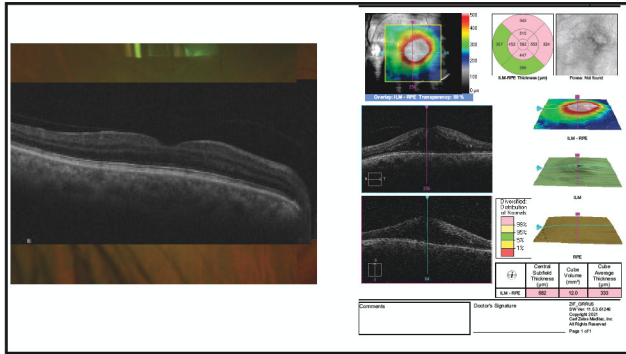
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### DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA (DME)

- No DME**
  - No retinal thickening or hard exudates in the macula
- Center-Involved DME (CI-DME)**
  - Retinal thickening in the macula that involves the central subfield zone that is 1 mm in diameter
  - Central subfield thickening (CST)  $\geq 305 \mu\text{m}$  in women and  $\geq 320 \mu\text{m}$  in men by optical coherence tomography (OCT)
- Non-center Involved DME (non CI-DME)**
  - Retinal thickening in the macula that does not involve the central subfield zone that is 1mm in diameter

The figure includes two OCT scans showing retinal cross-sections. The top scan shows a normal macula, while the bottom scan shows thickening in the central subfield. Diagrams to the left show the 1mm central subfield zone and the 500µm non-center zone.

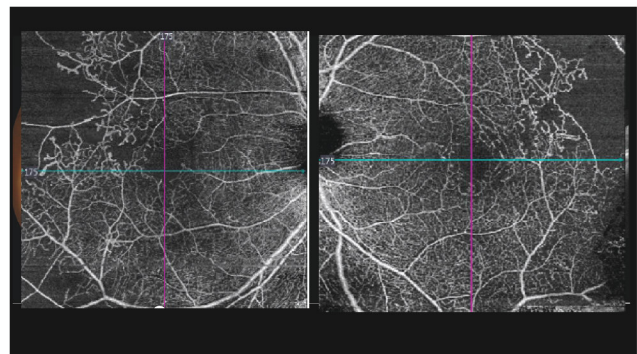
80

### GLITAZONE

*A three to six times increased risk of developing diabetic macular edema (DME)*  
Arch Intern Med. 2012;172(13):1005-1011

The image shows a hand holding a box of AVANDIA 4 mg tablets. A large red prohibition sign is overlaid on the image, indicating a warning or contraindication. The text above the sign states that there is a three to six times increased risk of developing diabetic macular edema (DME) associated with glitazone.

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### Diabetic Macular Ischemia (DMI)

- Vascular anomalies (loops & dilations)
- Capillary dropout & FAZ enlargement

A fundus image showing retinal vascular anomalies, including loops and dilations, characteristic of Diabetic Macular Ischemia (DMI).

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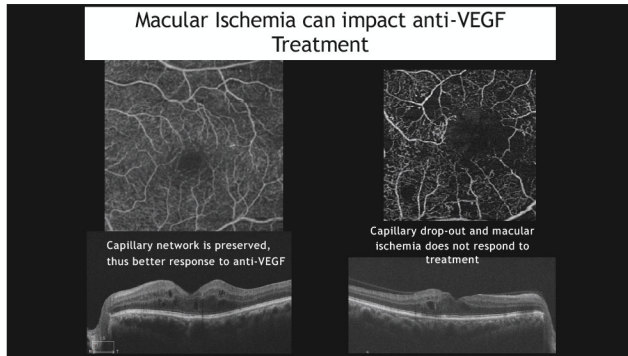
### Macula of DR patient vs normal

Feature	DR Patient	Normal
Shape FAZ	Irregular	Symmetrically round
Capillary anastomosis	loss	present
Perifoveal non-perfusion	present	absent

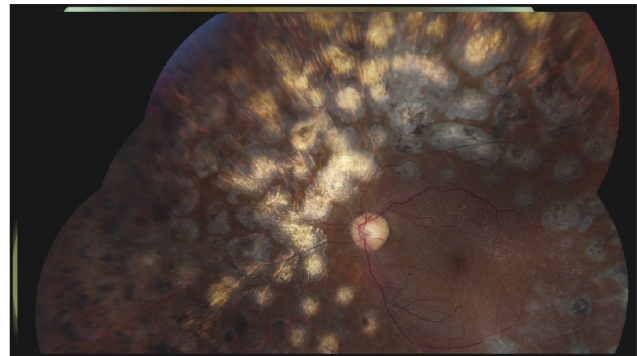
The figure compares the macular vascular patterns of a DR patient (left) and a normal eye (right). The DR patient's macula shows irregular FAZ shape, capillary anastomosis loss, and perifoveal non-perfusion. The normal eye's macula shows a symmetrically round FAZ shape, present capillary anastomosis, and absence of perifoveal non-perfusion.

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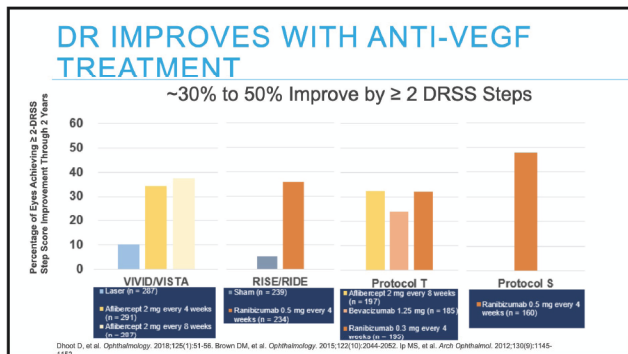


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**Seminal Diabetic Macular Edema Studies**

- Rise/Ride studies**- Lucentis 0.3mg for diabetic macular edema (DME) based on data from two-phase 3 clinical trials: 759 patients. Evaluated 0.3 mg vs. 0.5 mg (AMD dose) vs. sham/laser. FDA approved 0.3 mg dose for DME 8/2012.
- RESTORE** - 12-month randomized trial and open label 24-month extension- 3 monthly loading doses and then PRN treatment showed efficacy in maintaining visual and anatomic benefit
- DRCR Protocol I** - 5 years results of Lucentis for DME with prompt or deferred laser. Most eyes treated with Lucentis and either prompt or deferred laser maintain vision gains obtained in first year through 5 years with little additional treatment over last 3 years
- VIVID and VISTA-DME** - monthly injection of Eylea for DME.

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**Current Treatment Options for DR/DME**

- Ranibizumab (Lucentis 0.3 mg) - RIDE/RISE (\$1150)
- Aflibercept (Eylea) - VIVID/VISTA (\$2000)
- Bevacizumab (Avastin) - used with step therapy and for cost reasons (\$70)
- Dexamethasone implant (Ozurdex) - MEAD (\$1400)- Protocol U
- Fluocinolone implant (Iluvien) - FAME(\$9300)
- Intravitreal Triamcinolone (Triessence) - \$150
- Beovu (Brolucizumab) - used rarely

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### PALADIN Trial: FAc for DME

- The 0.19-mg fluocinolone acetonide (FAc) implant was approved by the FDA in 2014 for the treatment of DME in patients who have been previously treated with a course of corticosteroids and did not have a clinically significant rise in IOP.
- PALADIN was a 3-year, phase 4, open-label observation study in the US with a focus on safety outcomes in patients treated according to the FDA label for the implant.
- Data through the end of the study at 36 months (n=94 eyes) are presented here.
- Primary endpoint: Changes in IOP and interventions to manage IOP elevations
- Secondary endpoints: Changes in BCVA, changes in CST, adjunctive DME treatment frequency

Singer MA et al. Ophthalmology. 2022;129(6):605-613.

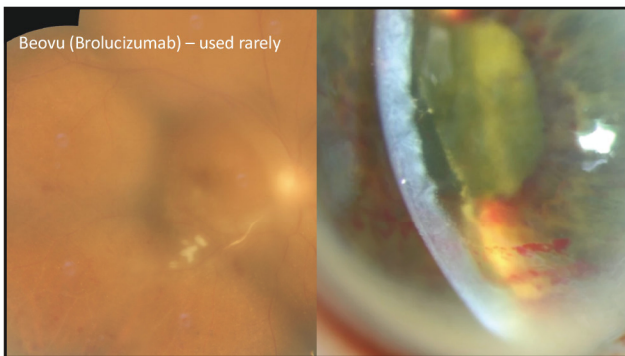
91

### REINFORCE: A Prospective Multicenter Study of Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant (DEX) in DME

- DEX has shown efficacy in patients with DME in controlled trials
- Data on real-world outcomes in DME patients receiving DEX as monotherapy or adjunctive therapy are limited
- Study objective: To assess the effectiveness, safety, and real-world use of DEX in clinical practice in patients with DME
- Prospective, multicenter, observational registry study
- Ocular history, treatment, and outcomes data were collected at the patient's first DEX injection and each subsequent visit up to 1 year
- Primary endpoints: Mean maximum BCVA change (best improvement) from baseline following each DEX injection, percentage of patients with ≥15-letter improvement in BCVA, average improvement in BCVA

Singer MA. Ophthalmic Surg Lasers Imaging Retina. 2018;49(6):425-435.

92



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### Vabysmo: First Bispecific Antibody Designed for Intravitreal Use

Engineered for efficacy, duration within the eye, and fast systemic clearance

**1 molecule, 2 targets**

**Anti-Ang-2 Fab**

- Enhanced activity through Ang-2 inhibition

**Anti-VEGF-A Fab**

- Proven efficacy through VEGF-A inhibition

**Optimized Fc**

- Faster systemic clearance
- No effector function

Raghu J, et al. BMC Med. 2018;16:128. Raghu J, et al. BMC Med. 2018;16:128. Raghu J, et al. BMC Med. 2018;16:128.

94

### Under Physiological Conditions, the Angiopoietin Pathway Maintains Vascular Stability and Homeostasis<sup>1-3</sup>

Together, Ang-2 and VEGF-A signalling pathways **reduce the integrity of endothelial cell junctions and promote vascular leakage**

VEGFR2: vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2

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### Faricimab: 1 Molecule Targeting 2 Signaling Pathways via Inhibition of Ang-2 and VEGF-A to Improve Vascular Stability for Durable Efficacy

**Anti-Ang-2 Fab**

- Stabilizes vessels
- Reduces vascular leakage
- Reduces inflammation

**Anti-VEGF-A Fab**

- Reduces vascular leakage
- Inhibits neovascularization

**Modified Fc**

- Reduces systemic exposure
- Reduces inflammatory potential

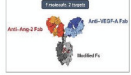
YOSEMITE, RHHME, and RHINE were phase 3, randomized, double-masked, active comparator-controlled trials

- Designed to assess the efficacy, safety, and durability of faricimab
- In treatment-naïve patients with center-involving DME (CST > 305 μm<sup>2</sup>)
- Comparable 1-year BCVA gains and improved anatomic outcomes with faricimab up to Q16W vs aflibercept Q8W were maintained through year 2<sup>4</sup>

YOSEMITE, RHHME, and RHINE were phase 3, randomized, double-masked, active comparator-controlled trials. Faricimab was approved by the FDA for the treatment of DME in 2020. Faricimab was approved by the FDA for the treatment of DME in 2020. Faricimab was approved by the FDA for the treatment of DME in 2020.

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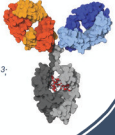
### Vabysmo (faricimab)



- Roche/Genentech
  - FDA approved January 3, 2022 for AMD and DME
- First bi-specific antibody for intraocular use
  - One arm: Vegf-A inhibitor
  - Other arm: Angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2)inhibitor
    - growth factor that promotes vascular destabilization and inflammation
  - Dual inhibition of VEGF and Ang-2 have proven more effective than inhibiting either target alone
- Multiple studies show similar results to monthly Lucentis/Eylea but able to object less frequently, many patients q 16 weeks
- October 2023- FDA approved for RVO
  - COMINO and BALATON

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### Elevatum Study Design and Rationale: Phase 4 Trial of Faricimab (Vabysmo) in Underrepresented Patients With Diabetic Macular Edema



**Joseph M. Coney, MD, FACS<sup>1</sup>**  
 Adrienne W. Scott, MD, FASRS<sup>2</sup>; Manuel Amador, MD<sup>3</sup>;  
 Jennifer Chang, PharmD, MBA<sup>3</sup>; Ivaylo Stoilov, MD<sup>3</sup>; Matthew Meldorf, MD<sup>3</sup>;  
 Luis Gonzalez, MD, MPH<sup>4</sup>; and Matthew A. Cunningham, MD<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Retina Associates of Cleveland, Inc., Cleveland, OH; <sup>2</sup>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD; <sup>3</sup>Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, CA; <sup>4</sup>NR retina, Teaneck, NJ; <sup>5</sup>Florida Retina Institute, Clermont, FL

Presented at the American Society of Retina Specialists Annual Meeting  
 Seattle, WA | July 27–August 1, 2023

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### Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Prevalence of Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy/Diabetic Macular Edema

- Underrepresented populations are more affected by diabetes and diabetic eye diseases<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy is 33.4% in Hispanic patients and 28.5% in Black patients vs 18.2% in White patients<sup>3</sup>
  - Hispanic and Black patients have worse baseline VA and disease severity on starting anti-VEGF therapy for DME vs White patients<sup>4</sup>
- A retrospective study showed that VA improvements following 1 anti-VEGF injection were lowest in Black (26.7%) and Hispanic (39.4%) patients with DME compared with White (50.0%) patients with DME<sup>5</sup>
- Minority populations are largely underrepresented in clinical trials that have led to FDA-approved ophthalmology therapies<sup>6</sup>
- The aim of Elevatum is to evaluate the treatment response and safety of faricimab in traditionally underrepresented, treatment-naïve patients with DME

1. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084. 2. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084. 3. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084. 4. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084. 5. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084. 6. Diabetes Care. 2014;37(12):2078-2084.

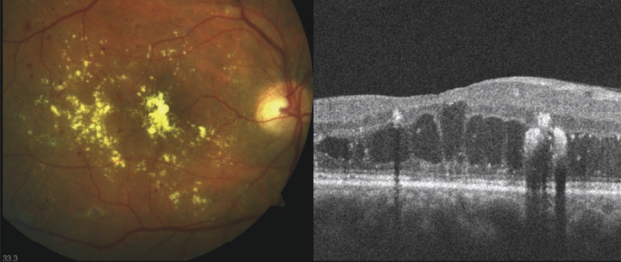
99

### High Dose Aflibercept (Eylea)

- PULSAR (AMD) and PHOTON (DME) Studies
  - Looked at 8 mg vs 2 mg of Eylea
  - Demonstrated non-inferior and clinically equivalent vision gains at 48 weeks with 8 mg at 12- and 16-week dosing after 3 initial doses compared to Eylea every 8 weeks after initial dosing
- Eylea HD FDA approved 8/18/2023 for AMD, DME and DR
  - Recommended dose 1 injection every 4 weeks for first 3 mos for all indications, then every 8-16 weeks (2-4 mos) for AMD and DME and every 8-12 weeks (2-3 mos) for DR

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### When Central-involved DME in Eyes with Very Good Visual Acuity (DRCR.net Protocol V)



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### Treatment for Central-involved DME in Eyes with Very Good Visual Acuity (DRCR.net Protocol V)

- 702 randomized participants completed two-year follow-up
- What is the best **treatment strategy** for eyes with central-involved (CI) DME and good visual acuity?
  - For eyes with center-involving DME and visual acuity of 20/25 or better, observation with close follow-up may be a reasonable initial management option and doesn't compromise visual acuity outcomes at two years.
  - Close follow-up is important, as patients were followed every eight to 16 weeks and rescued with aflibercept if their vision declined.
- DME can be clinically sub-divided into three relevant categories
  - CI-DME with VA impairment
  - CI-DME with good VA
  - Non-CI-DME

Shen J, Wang J, Neely CD, et al. Evidence-Based Guidelines for Management of Diabetic Macular Edema. Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology. 2016.

102

### Would patients with severe NPDR benefit from Anti-VEGF Treatment?

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### Modified ETDRS Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale<sup>1-4</sup>

	NPDR		PDR	
Modified ETDRS Score	2, 3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9, 10
Severity	Very mild, mild, or moderate	Moderately severe or severe	Mild or Moderate	High-risk or Severe
ETDRS Score	20, 35, 43	47, 53	61, 65	71, 75, 81, 85

1. ETDRS. Ophthalmology. 1991;98:823-833. 2. ETDRS. Ophthalmology. 1991;98:786-805. 3. PMS, et al. Arch Ophthalmol. 2012;130(9):1145-1152. 4. American Academy of Ophthalmology. International Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale. October 2002. <http://www.aao.org/eyebase/retinopathy/retinopathy-detail.cdf>. Accessed 1/4/25, 2017.

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#### Panorama Study

- Enrolled eyes with moderate-to-severe and severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR) with or without DME
- Showed that eyes treated with aflibercept (Eylea, Regeneron) had significantly greater improvement of 2 or more steps in DR severity compared with the sham group.
- As a secondary outcome, the study demonstrated that the anti-VEGF treatment reduced the likelihood of developing vision-threatening complications such as center-involved DME (CI-DME) or PDR.

#### DRCR.net Protocol W

- Protocol W is a prospective multicenter study by the DRCR Retina Network that included eyes with moderate-to-severe NPDR and without baseline CI-DME
- The study was designed as a long-term evaluation of intravitreal aflibercept's ability to prevent PDR and CI-DME in eyes with advanced DR.
- Two-year result summary result - Preventive treatment with aflibercept resulted in a threefold reduction in the development of CI-DME with vision loss (14.8% in the sham group vs 4.1% in the aflibercept group).
- Treatment was also associated with a nearly twofold reduction in the development of new-onset PDR (33.2% in the sham group vs 13.5% in the aflibercept group)

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### PANORAMA: Anti-VEGF Improves DRSS Level ≥2 Steps in Moderately Severe to Severe NPDR

DRSS, Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor. Brown DM, et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2023;139(9):946-955.

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### PANORAMA: Anti-VEGF Improves DRSS Level ≥2 Steps in Moderately Severe to Severe NPDR

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### Anti-VEGF Reduces Risk of VTCs in Moderate to Severe NPDR

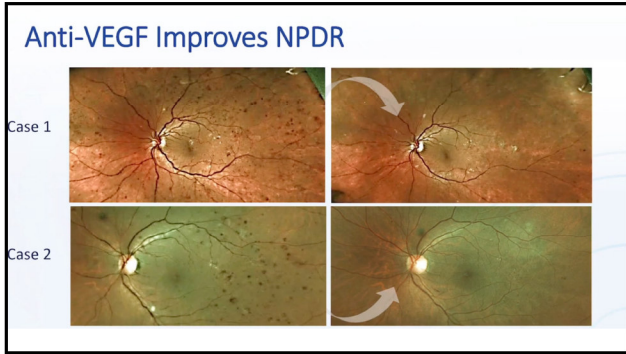
Protocol W

Outcome	Aflibercept n = 200	Sham n = 199
CI-DME with vision loss or PDR	16.3%	43.5%
CI-DME with vision loss	4.1%	14.8%
PDR	13.5%	33.2%

Time from randomization to PDR or CI-DME with vision loss

Adjusted hazard ratio, 0.32 (95% CI, 0.21-0.50). P = 0.001.

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**Original Investigation**  
 February 7, 2023  
**Four-Year Visual Outcomes in the Protocol W Randomized Trial of Intravitreal Aflibercept for Prevention of Vision-Threatening Complications of Diabetic Retinopathy**  
 Raj K. Maturi, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Adam R. Glassman, MS<sup>3</sup>; Kristin Josic, PhD<sup>3</sup>; et al  
 > Author Affiliations  
 JAMA. 2023;329(5):376-385. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.25029

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**Key Points**  
**Question** In patients with nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR) and good vision but without center-involved diabetic macular edema (CI-DME), does early aflibercept reduce disease progression and improve long-term visual acuity compared with initial observation and treatment only if disease worsens?  
**Findings** This study presents 4-year primary outcomes of a randomized clinical trial that included 328 patients (399 eyes), randomized to 2.0 mg aflibercept injections or sham injections. Among those receiving aflibercept, proliferative diabetic retinopathy or CI-DME developed in 33.9% vs 56.9% among those who received sham—a difference that was statistically significant. Change in visual acuity was -2.7 vs -2.4 letters, a difference that was not statistically significant.  
**Meaning** At 4 years, treatment of NPDR with aflibercept vs sham treatment resulted in statistically significant anatomic improvement, but no improvement in visual acuity.

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**Protocol AE**

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**A Pilot Study Evaluating Photobiomodulation (PBM) Therapy for DME**  
 Protocol AE: whether photobiomodulation (670 nm wavelength) has a beneficial effect in eyes with DME

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**WHAT IS PHOTOBIO-MODULATION?**

- Low-Level Light Therapy
- Use of red-infrared light to stimulate beneficial cellular activity
- Increases energy production, alters signaling modalities, activates transcription factors
- Cytoprotective properties, used in wound repair

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**A Randomized Trial of Photobiomodulation Therapy for Center-Involved Diabetic Macular Edema with Good Visual Acuity (Protocol AE)**  
 Abstract

**Purpose:** To determine if treatment with a photobiomodulation (PBM) device results in greater improvement in central subfield thickness (CST) than placebo in eyes with center-involved diabetic macular edema (CI-DME) and good vision. **Design:** Phase 2 randomized clinical trial. **Participants:** Participants had CI-DME and visual acuity (VA) 20/25 or better in the study eye and were recruited from 23 clinical sites in the United States. **Methods:** One eye of each participant was randomly assigned to a 670-nm light-emitting PBM eye patch or an identical device emitting broad-spectrum white light at low power. Treatment was applied for 90 seconds twice daily for 4 months. **Main Outcome Measures:** Change in CST on spectral-domain OCT at 4 months. **Results:** From April 2019 to February 2020, 135 adults were randomly assigned to either PBM (n = 69) or placebo (n = 66); median age was 62 years, 37% were women, and 82% were White. The median device compliance was 92% with PBM and 95% with placebo. OCT CST increased from baseline to 4 months by a mean (SD) of 13 (5) μm in PBM eyes and 15 (5) μm in placebo eyes, with the mean difference (95% confidence interval [CI]) being -2 (-20 to 16) μm (P = 0.86). CI-DME, based on DRRCR Retina Network sex- and machine-based thresholds, was present in 61 (90%) PBM eyes and 57 (86%) placebo eyes at 4 months (adjusted odds ratio [95% CI] = 1.30 [0.44–3.83]; P = 0.63). VA decreased by a mean (SD) of -0.2 (5.5) letters and -0.6 (4.6) letters in the PBM and placebo groups, respectively (difference [95% CI] = -0.4 (-2.3 to 2.0) letters; P = 0.56). There were 8 adverse events possibly related to the PBM device and 2 adverse events possibly related to the placebo device. None were serious. **Conclusions:** PBM as given in this study, although safe and well-tolerated, was not found to be effective for the treatment of CI-DME in eyes with good vision.

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### Anti-VEGFs Biosimilars

- Per the FDA:
  - "A biosimilar is a biological product that is approved based on data showing that it is highly similar to a biological product already approved by the FDA"

Concerns about biosimilar safety, efficacy, and immunogenicity

- Byooviz (Samsung) approved Sept 2021- Wet AMD, RVO, and myopic CNV
- Cimerli (Coherus) approved Oct 2022- DME, diabetic retinopathy (DR), wet AMD, RVO, and myopic CNV.
- Bevacizumab- Latest 2024- Avzivi (bevacizumab-trjnj)
- Many in development
  - Ranibizumab
  - Aflibercept
  - Bevacizumab

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### Ocuterra

- Topical Administration of anti-VEGF agent in eye drop form (OTT-166)

BIOTECH

## Phase 2 fail sends OcuTerra's eye drop dreams down the drain

By Gabrielle Masson · Mar 14, 2024 9:15am

- Secondary endpoints:
  - Prevention of progression to VTC
  - Delay in time to PRP or intravitreal injection

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### Ocuphire Pharma's APX3330

- A twice-daily oral tablet

## Ocuphire Pharma Announces Successful End-of-Phase 2 Meeting with FDA for Oral APX3330 in Diabetic Retinopathy

November 02, 2023 [Download as PDF](#)

- Participants received either APX3330 600 mg per day or a placebo. The primary endpoint was the percentage of participants with a 2-step or greater improvement in the Diabetic Retinopathy Severity Scale (DRSS) by week 24.
- Moderately severe to severe NPDR and mild PDR

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**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
for the Screening  
of Diabetic Retinopathy

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The Dx-DR sensitivity and specificity of 87.4% and 89.5%, respectively, 1 in 10 patients will have a false-positive or false-negative result.

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) permits marketing of artificial intelligence-based software to detect certain diabetic retinal eye problems. 2024. Accessed August 21, 2023.

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**EyeArt**  
Diabetic Retinopathy Analysis System

**EyeNuk**

**EyeArt**  
Diabetic Retinopathy Analysis System

**General Information**

Patient ID: p004  
Referring Location: DMH Clinic  
Referring Provider: Dr. John Doe  
Patient Name: [Redacted]  
Date of Birth: [Redacted]  
Gender: Male  
Diagnosis Status: Not Diagnosed  
Exam Analysis Date: 2020-Feb-20 14:20

**EyeNuk Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) Exam Results Summary**

Vision-Correcting DR detected in both eyes. Refer to an eye care professional for evaluation (with pre-referral scheduling if possible).

**Right Eye Results**

Overall Result: None than mild DR detected  
VDR Result: Vision-threatening DR detected

**Left Eye Results**

Overall Result: None than mild DR detected  
VDR Result: Vision-threatening DR detected

Macula Center, Right Eye  
Macula Center, Left Eye  
ODM Center, Right Eye  
ODM Center, Left Eye

\*Do not use the above fundus images for diagnostic purposes.

**Notes**

A positive result for vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy indicates a high risk for serious vision-problemes

EyeNuk is an AI screening program that utilizes the EyeArt software which has shown positive results with over 95% sensitivity when using fundus images obtained from smartphone

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**TELEMEDICINE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DIABETES**

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends retinal telemedicine screening to identify patients who have DR as a method of overcoming barriers to in-person care, such as a low provider-to-patient ratio, and prohibitive distance to reach a provider.<sup>23</sup> That said, it's important to note that retinal photos are not a substitute for a comprehensive dilated eye exam. This is especially the case when the photos are unreliable and for follow-up if abnormalities are detected. Two automated deep-learning artificial intelligence devices are available: The IDx-DR, from Digital Diagnostics, and the EyeScreen, from EyeNuk, Inc.

American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2024 Jan 1;47(suppl 1):S23-DR.

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**Clinical Evidence for ERG in Diabetic Retinopathy**

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**85-year-old patient with a DR score of 24.6 reveals that this patient is at a greater risk of developing VTDR.**

A recent study showed that patients having a DR score equal to or greater than 23.5 were 11 times more likely to have a future ocular intervention than patients having scores less than 23.5.

**DR Score**

DR Score	DR Score
24.6	24.6
23.5 - 24.6	23.5 - 24.6
22.5 - 23.5	22.5 - 23.5
21.5 - 22.5	21.5 - 22.5
20.5 - 21.5	20.5 - 21.5

**ERG**

ERG	ERG
117.7 = 44.8	117.7 = 44.8
117.7 = 44.8	117.7 = 44.8
117.7 = 44.8	117.7 = 44.8
117.7 = 44.8	117.7 = 44.8
117.7 = 44.8	117.7 = 44.8

**Pupil**

Pupil	Pupil
1.3 = 3.8	1.3 = 3.8
1.3 = 3.8	1.3 = 3.8
1.3 = 3.8	1.3 = 3.8
1.3 = 3.8	1.3 = 3.8
1.3 = 3.8	1.3 = 3.8

Engel, Mitchell C., Bruce Chang, April Yeung, Mia, and C. Quentin Doshi. "Assessing Risk Assessment in Patients with Diabetic Retinopathy by Combining Measures of Retinal Function and Structure." *Translational Vision Science & Technology*, Vol. 13, August 2023, 46-54.

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**OTHER DIAGNOSTICS**

- Visual acuity:** acuity may not align with severity
- Macular pigment optical density (MPOD):** look for decrease with DR and increasing DR severity
- Color vision (color contrast threshold):** reveals dyschromatopsia in a significant percentage of patients with DR (worsens with severity)
- Contrast sensitivity:** visual function tests may be helpful with screening and treatment of low vision (vision rehabilitation)

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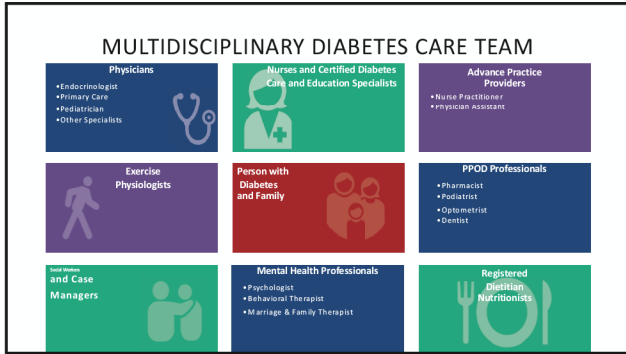
**Diabetes Care**

Standards of Care in Diabetes—2024

**TREATING THE WHOLE PERSON**

American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care 2024 Jan 1;47(suppl 1):S23-DR.

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### Interdisciplinary Communication Is Essential

- Bidirectional communication between a patient's primary care provider and eye care professional is crucial to properly coordinate care.
- All health care team members should be aware of the patient's overall medical status and individualized therapeutic targets.
- The patient's primary care provider should refer patients for annual eye examinations.
- The patient's primary care provider should be informed of the results of each eye exam, even when retinopathy is minimal or not present.

American Optometric Association. Eye Care of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus, 2nd ed. St. Louis, MO, American Optometric Association, 2019.

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### THE LANGUAGE OF DIABETES CARE

For people with diabetes, language has an impact on motivation, behaviors, and outcomes. When talking with people with diabetes, use language that:

- Is neutral, nonjudgmental, and based on facts, actions, or physiology/biology
- Is free from stigma
- Is strengths-based, respectful, inclusive, and imparts hope
- Fosters collaboration between patients and providers
- Is person-centered

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### DIABETES EDUCATION

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that all people with diabetes be referred for diabetes education and support at four critical times:

1. At diagnosis
2. Annually for assessment of education, nutrition, and emotional needs
3. When new complicating factors influence self-management
4. When transitions in care occur

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### Five-step approach to behavior change

- Step 1: Elicit context conversation**
  - Talk about values, use open-ended questions
- Step 2: Validate context**
  - Frequently, simply acknowledging a patient's situation can have a positive impact
  - Use reflective listening and validating statements
- Step 3: Challenge or change context**
  - If you've identified a modifiable contextual factor, address it!
  - Ask the patient to identify which contextual factor they think they could address
  - Help patient identify ways to address this contextual change
- Step 4: Connect behavior to values**
  - If you have elicited values, try to help your patient see where self-management can connect to their values to build motivation
- Step 5: Praise and encourage**
  - Praise anything you can, express faith in their ability to improve self-management

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### 5 Ways Optometrists Can Help Prevent Diabetic Vision Loss:

**FACTS:** > 30 million Americans have diabetes (1.5M newly diagnosed each year)

- ... Up to 35% of newly diagnosed T2DM already have some diabetic retinopathy (DR)
- ... Only 60% of people with diabetes receive eye care
- ... The 40% who "fall through the cracks" have more severe disease when finally seen.

- 1. Optometrists serve as the FRONT LINE OF EYE CARE**
- 2. COMPREHENSIVE DILATED EYE EXAM** (Fundus Photography and/or OCT)
  - Assess risk factors: glucose control, Use ADA Practice Guidelines
  - Stay up-to-date on diabetes and vision
- 3. IDENTIFY & REFER** (referral to DR & DME)
  - High Risk Referral: Control worsening DME, Refer to DR
  - 40,000 Education Tracking Communication
  - 2,500 Referral Specialists
- 4. COLLABORATION** (Education Tracking Communication)
- 5. CALLS TO ACTION**
  - Be your patient's advocate
  - Educate them
  - Use technology
  - Communicate with endocrinologists, PCPs, and ophthalmologists
  - <http://www.aao.org/eyehealth>

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Bottom line

- Array of new treatment options Diabetic Retinopathy/DME
- Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, including today's Advance approaches to both diabetes and diabetic eye disease, could prevent 95% of vision loss caused by diabetes

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*Thank You!*  
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