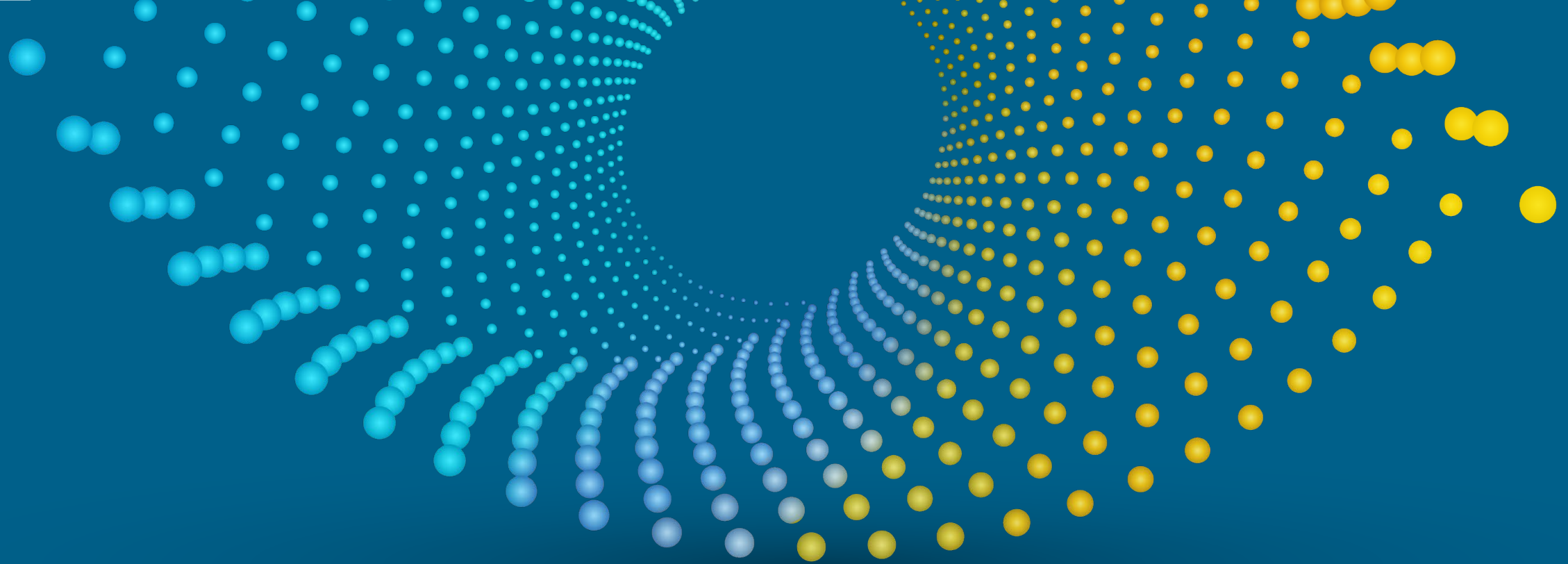

Two-year outcomes from FIREFLEYE Next, a prospective follow-up study to evaluate long-term efficacy and safety of patients treated with intravitreal aflibercept or laser photocoagulation for retinopathy of prematurity in the FIREFLEYE study

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Disclosures

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DL: Consultant for Bayer and Novartis; **AS:** Consultant for Allergan, Apellis, Bayer, Novartis, and Roche; **HN:** Expenses from Bayer; **NA:** Expenses from Bayer; **AF:** Consultant for Bayer and Novartis

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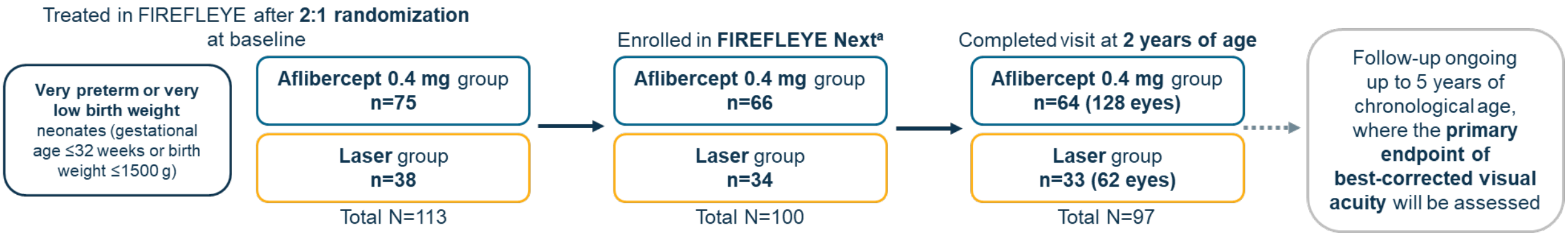
FIREFLEYE Next (NCT04015180) study design

FIREFLEYE Next is the first multinational, ongoing, phase 3b study assessing ocular and further clinical outcomes, including growth and neurodevelopmental outcomes, **through 5 years of age** following treatment of acute-phase ROP with intravitreal aflibercept 0.4 mg vs. laser photocoagulation in the **24-week, Phase 3 FIREFLEYE study**[1]



Endpoints included in exploratory interim analysis (2 years of chronological age)

- Absence of **active ROP**
- Absence of **unfavorable structural outcomes**
- **Completion of retinal vascularization**
- **Treatment need** for ROP complications
- **Refractive spherical equivalent**
- Ability to **fix and follow a 5-cm toy**
- Outcomes of **growth**, and **neurodevelopmental tests** (BSID-III, VABS-II)

[a]Three study treatment-unrelated deaths in FIREFLEYE and the parents/carers of 10 children (aflibercept 0.4 mg, 6; laser, 4) did not consent to enrollment in FIREFLEYE Next.
BSID-III, Bayley Scales of Toddler and Infant Development, Third Edition; **ROP**, retinopathy of prematurity; **VABS-II**, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Second Edition.
1. Stahl et al. *JAMA* 2022;328(4):348–59.

Baseline characteristics

	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (n=66)	Laser (n=34)	Total (N=100)
Male, n (%)	36 (**54.5**)	17 (**50.0**)	53 (**53.0**)
Gestational age, w and d	**26w 4d** ±2.1	**26w 0d** ±1.7	**26w 3d** ±1.9
Gestational age group, n (%)			
<24 weeks	3 (**4.5**)	3 (**8.8**)	6 (**6.0**)
≥24 to <27 weeks	39 (**59.1**)	22 (**64.7**)	61 (**61.0**)
≥27 weeks	24 (**36.4**)	9 (**26.5**)	33 (**33.0**)
Birth weight, g	**882.2** ±286.9	**819.5** ±238.6	**860.9** ±271.9
Body weight at baseline treatment in FIREFLEYE, g	**2045.8** ±675.8	**1843.8** ±569.2	**1977.1** ±645.8
Chronological age at FIREFLEYE Next entry, months	**9.0** ±1.6	**9.1** ±1.7	**9.0** ±1.6

84% of children had **no ROP** at FIREFLEYE Next study entry

Detailed ROP classification by investigator, n (%)	At FIREFLEYE study entry			At FIREFLEYE Next study entry		
	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (n=75)	Laser (n=38)	Total (N=113)	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (n=66)	Laser (n=34)	Total (N=100)
Absence of ROP	0	0	0	55 (83.3)	29 (85.3)	84 (84.0)
Zone I (excluding AP-ROP)	15 (20.0)	7 (18.4)	22 (19.5)	3 (4.5)	3 (8.8)	6 (6.0)
Stage 1	1 (1.3)	0	1 (0.9)	1 (1.5)	1 (2.9)	2 (2.0)
Stage 2	2 (2.7)	2 (5.3)	4 (3.5)	0	0	0
Stage 3	3 (4.5)	1 (2.6)	4 (3.5)	0	0	0
Stage 3+	9 (12.0)	4 (10.5)	13 (11.5)	0	0	0
Stage 4A	0	0	0	1 (1.5)	0	1 (1.0)
Stage 4B	0	0	0	1 (1.5)	1 (2.9)	2 (2.0)
Missing	0	0	0	0	1 (2.9)	1 (1.0)
Zone II (excluding AP-ROP)	46 (61.3)	26 (68.4)	72 (63.7)	4 (6.1)	2 (5.9)	6 (6.0)
Stage 1	0	0	0	1 (1.5)	1 (2.9)	2 (2.0)
Stage 2	0	1 (2.6)	1 (0.9)	2 (3.0)	0	2 (2.0)
Stage 2+	7 (9.3)	4 (13.2)	12 (10.6)	0	0	0
Stage 3+	39 (52.0)	20 (52.6)	59 (52.2)	0	0	0
Missing	0	0	0	1 (1.5)	1 (2.9)	2 (2.0)
Zone III (excluding AP-ROP)	0	0	0	4 (6.1)	0	4 (4.0)
Stage 1	0	0	0	3 (4.5)	0	3 (3.0)
Missing	0	0	0	1 (1.5)	0	1 (1.0)
AP-ROP	14 (18.7)	5 (13.2)	19 (16.8)	0	0	0
Zone I	12 (16.0)	4 (10.5)	16 (14.2)	0	0	0
Zone II	2 (2.7)	1 (2.6)	3 (2.7)	0	0	0

Data are mean ±SD unless stated otherwise. **AP-ROP**, aggressive-posterior retinopathy of prematurity; **n**, number; **SD**, standard deviation.

Unfavorable structural outcomes, ROP recurrence, and treatment for ROP complications in FIREFLEYE Next

	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (n=66)		Laser (n=34)	
Unfavorable structural outcomes	At any time until 1 year of chronological age	At any time until 2 years of chronological age	At any time until 1 year of chronological age	At any time until 2 years of chronological age
Number of children, n (%)	66 (100.0)	66 (100.0)	34 (100.0)	34 (100.0)
None	62 (**93.9**)	62 (**93.9**)	32 (**94.1**)	32 (**94.1**)
Retinal detachment	3 (**4.5**)	3 (**4.5**)	1 (**2.9**)	1 (**2.9**)
Macular dragging	1 (**1.5**)	1 (**1.5**)	1 (**2.9**)	1 (**2.9**)
Macular fold	1 (**1.5**)	1 (**1.5**)	0	0
Retrolental opacity	1 (**1.5**)	1 (**1.5**)	0	0
Any unfavorable structural outcome	4 (**6.1**)	4 (**6.1**)	2 (**5.9**)	2 (**5.9**)
Number of treated eyes, n (%)	128 (100.0)	128 (100.0)	64 (100.0)	64 (100.0)
None	121 (**94.5**)	121 (**94.5**)	61 (**95.3**)	61 (**95.3**)
Retinal detachment	5 (**3.9**)	5 (**3.9**)	1 (**1.6**)	1 (**1.6**)
Macular dragging	2 (**1.6**)	2 (**1.6**)	2 (**3.1**)	2 (**3.1**)
Macular fold	2 (**1.6**)	2 (**1.6**)	0	0
Retrolental opacity	2 (**1.6**)	2 (**1.6**)	0	0
Any unfavorable structural outcome	7 (**5.5**)	7 (**5.5**)	3 (**4.7**)	3 (**4.7**)
Recurrence of ROP after entry into FIREFLEYE Next[a]	Between entry and 1 year of age	Between entry and 2 years of age	Between entry and 1 year of age	Between entry and 2 years of age
n	66	64	34	32
Recurrence, n (%)	1 (**1.5**)	**0**	**0**	**0**

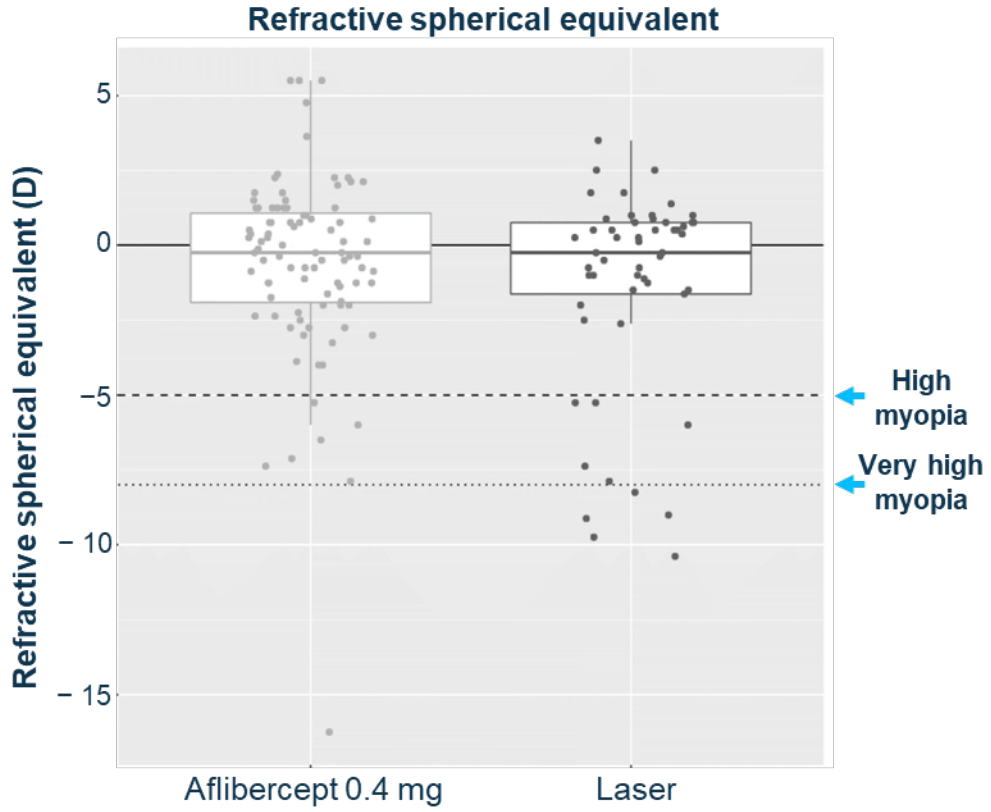
In total, **4 patients were treated** after entry into FIREFLEYE Next for ROP complications, all before 1 year of age (including 2 patients with pre-existing bilateral retinal detachment, 1 each with reactivated plus disease[b] and retinal neovascularization not further specified[c])

[a]Post hoc analysis. A child was considered as having ROP recurrence if: the inclusion criteria of FIREFLEYE (or worse) were reported and a previous assessment (either in FIREFLEYE or in FIREFLEYE Next) of ROP not requiring treatment (according to the inclusion criteria) was available. [b]Zone I, both eyes, treated at around 43 weeks of age. [c]Treated around 50 weeks of chronological age.

Ophthalmic outcomes at 2 years of age

	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (122 eyes)	Laser (63 eyes)
Ocular findings at 2 years of chronological age, n (%)		
Nystagmus	6 (**4.9**)	4 (**6.3**)
Manifest strabismus	28 (**23.0**)	12 (**19.0**)
Amblyopia	**0**	**0**
Cataract	1 (**0.8**)	**0**
Optic nerve atrophy	2 (**1.6**)	**0**
Ability to fix and follow a 5-cm toy	118 (**96.7**)	62 (**98.4**)
Eyes with complete retinal vascularization, n (%)[a]		
At 1 year of chronological age	91 (**71.1**)	-
At 2 years of chronological age	97 (**80.2**)	-

Retinal vascularization in the aflibercept 0.4 mg group **continued beyond 1 year of age**



Most eyes (aflibercept 0.4 mg, **97%**; laser, **98%**) **were able to fix and follow a 5-cm toy**

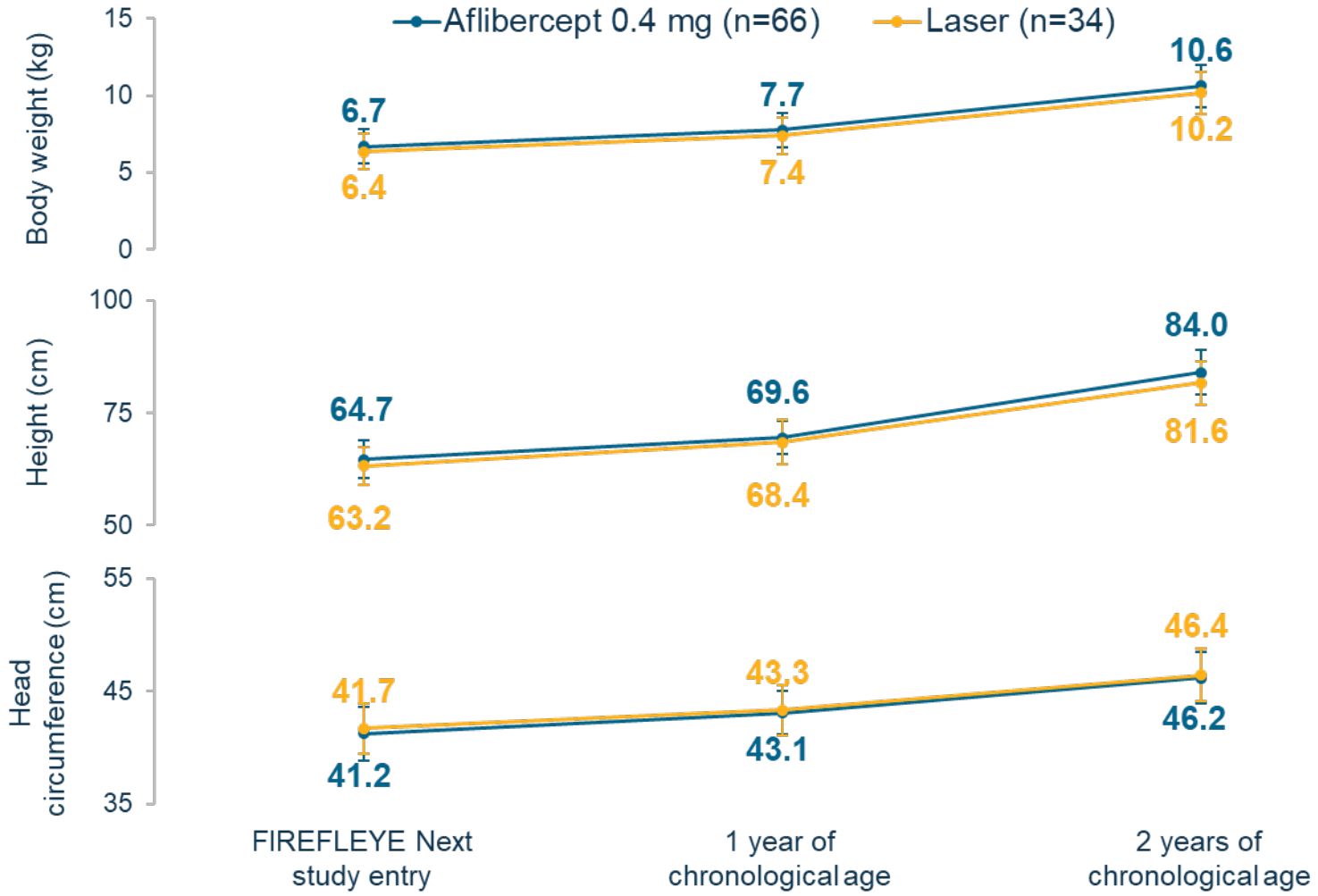
Myopia was mild in both groups and **less pronounced in the aflibercept 0.4 mg group** (aflibercept 0.4 mg, −0.6 [3.1] D; laser, −1.4 [3.4] D).

High myopia was present in **7 eyes** (**8%**) in the aflibercept 0.4 mg group and **10 eyes** (**19%**) in the laser group

Very high myopia was present in **1 eye** (**1%**) in the aflibercept 0.4 mg group and **5 eyes** (**9%**) in the laser group

[a]Analysis of complete vascularization in eyes receiving laser therapy is not reported, as laser scars prevent physiologic vascularization of the peripheral retina. Square brackets indicate standard deviation. **D**, diopter.

Growth parameters up to 2 years of age

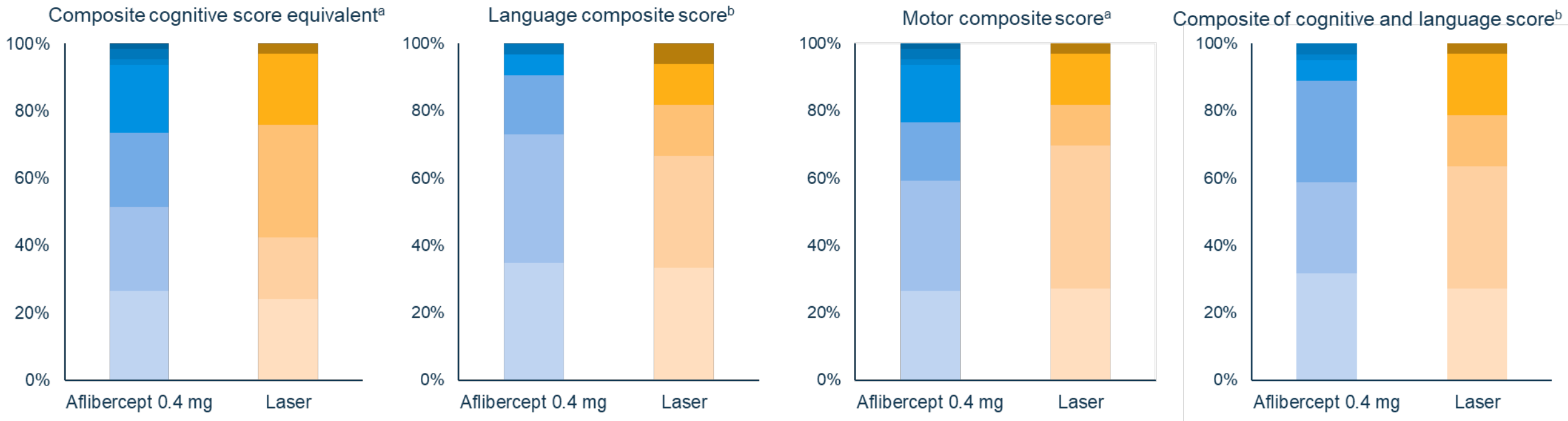


No clinically relevant differences in growth parameters were observed between both groups at 1 and 2 years of age, and results are in line with **what is expected in this prematurely born** pediatric population

Error bars represent SD

Neurodevelopmental test outcomes at 2 years of age

Bayley Scales of Toddler and Infant Development, 3rd Edition (BSID-III) scores



Composite scores for BSID-III and **VABS-II** (not shown) at 2 years of age were comparable across both groups. Small numerical differences in both directions can likely be attributed to sample size

[a]Aflibercept 0.4 mg, n=64; Laser, n=34. [b]Aflibercept 0.4 mg, n=63; Laser, n=33.

Adverse events (during FIREFLEYE Next through 2 years of age)

	Aflibercept 0.4 mg (n=66)	Laser (n=34)
Any AE, n (%)	53 (**80.3**)	27 (**79.4**)
Ocular AEs	30 (45.5)	9 (26.5)
Ocular AEs in eyes formerly treated in FIREFLEYE	29 (43.9)	9 (26.5)
Systemic AEs	49 (74.2)	24 (70.6)
AEs related to aflibercept 0.4 mg	1 (1.5)	1 (2.9)
AEs related to laser treatment	1 (1.5)	5 (14.7)
Ocular AEs in eyes formerly treated in FIREFLEYE (≥5% occurrence in any group), n (%)		
Astigmatism	9 (13.6)	4 (11.8)
Myopia	9 (13.6)	5 (14.7)
Strabismus[a]	9 (13.6)	2 (5.9)
Conjunctivitis	1 (1.5)	2 (5.9)
Any SAE, n (%)	17 (**25.8**)	10 (**29.4**)
Ocular SAEs in eyes formerly treated in FIREFLEYE	6 (9.1)	0
Systemic SAEs	15 (22.7)	10 (29.4)
SAEs related to aflibercept 0.4 mg	1 (1.5)	0
Death	0	0
Ocular SAEs, n (%)		
Optic atrophy	1 (1.5)	0
Retinal detachment	2 (3.0)	0
Retinal neovascularization	2 (3.0)	0
Retinopathy of prematurity	1 (1.5)	0
Vitreous opacities	1 (1.5)	0
Retinoblastoma	1 (1.5)	0
Systemic SAEs (≥5% occurrence in any arm), n (%)		
Cerebral palsy	2 (3.0)	2 (5.9)
Bronchospasm	0	2 (5.9)

Ocular and systemic AEs **were consistent with those expected** in children born preterm **with severe ROP,** and no new safety concerns were identified

[a]Reported as an adverse event. No imbalance of "manifest strabismus" (reported as an efficacy parameter) between groups.
AE, adverse event; **SAE**, serious adverse event.

Conclusions

FIREFLEYE Next is the **first prospective, controlled, Phase 3b study** evaluating **long-term efficacy and safety outcomes** after treatment of **acute-phase ROP with aflibercept 0.4 mg vs. laser photocoagulation** (final results through 5 years of age expected for 2026)

Through 2 years of chronological age, **efficacy outcomes were well sustained**, and **no ocular or systemic safety concerns**, including outcomes of growth and neurodevelopmental testing, **were identified:**

Efficacy

- **No late retinal detachment,** and **disease reactivation** after aflibercept 0.4 mg **was rare**
- No patient received treatment in the post-acute phase later than 50 weeks of chronological age
- **Retinal vascularization** after aflibercept 0.4 mg **continued beyond 1 year** of chronological age
- **Visual function was age-appropriate**, and **myopia** was rarer and **less severe in the aflibercept 0.4 mg group** than the laser group

Safety

- **No ROP treatment-specific effects** on **growth** outcomes through 2 years of age and **neurodevelopmental test** performance at 2 years of age
- No ocular or systemic safety concerns through 2 years of age were identified

Overall, aflibercept 0.4 mg injection therapy in very preterm/very low birthweight patients with acute-phase ROP (as approved[a]) was **effective and generally well-tolerated through 2 years of age**

[a]Aflibercept has been approved for treatment of ROP in Japan (September 2022),[1] the European Union (December 2022),[2] Switzerland,[2] Great Britain,[2] the USA (February 2023),[3] and Brazil (April 2023).[4]

1. Bayer, 2023. Available at: https://www.bayer.com/media/en-us/eylea-approved-in-japan-for-treatment-of-preterm-infants-with-retinopathy-of-prematurity/ [Accessed July 2023]; **2.** Bayer AG, 2023. Available at: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/product-information/eylea-epar-product-information_en.pdf [Accessed July 2023]; **3.** Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, 2023. Available at: https://www.regeneron.com/downloads/eylea_fpi.pdf [Accessed July 2023]; **4.** Anvisa NHSA, 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.br/anvisa/pt-br/assuntos/medicamentos/novos-medicamentos-e-indicacoes/eylia-aflibercepte-nova-indicacao [Accessed July 2023].

Thank you to all FIREFLEYE Next patients and investigators

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World map showing FIREFLEYE Next study site countries.