Intravitreal aflibercept 8 mg for macular edema following RVO: Efficacy outcomes by baseline characteristics in the QUASAR trial

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Disclosures

- **Marco Lupidi** is a consultant for Appelis, FB Vision, Heidelberg Engineering, and OFF Health; an investigator for 4D Molecular Therapeutics, Boehringer-Ingelheim, and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; and serves of the advisory board for AbbVie, Alimera Sciences, Bayer, Lumibird-Quentel Medical, Optomed, Roche, and The Macular Onlus Foundation
- The QUASAR trial (NCT05850520) was sponsored by Bayer AG (Leverkusen, Germany). The sponsor participated in the design and conduct of the study, analysis of the data, and preparation of this presentation
- This study included research conducted on human patients. Institutional Review Board/Institutional Ethics Committee approval was obtained prior to study initiation
- Medical writing support, under the direction of the author, was provided by ApotheCom and funded by Bayer Consumer Care AG, Basel, Switzerland, in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP) guidelines (*Ann Intern Med.* 2022;175:1298–1304)
- Aflibercept 8 mg is currently not on label for treating macular edema due to retinal vein occlusion; however, applications seeking approval of aflibercept 8 mg for macular edema due to retinal vein occlusion, including central, branch, and hemiretinal vein occlusion, have been submitted to the FDA and the EMA
- The QUASAR group wishes to thank all patients and investigators of the QUASAR trial

QUASAR: Study Design

A multi-center, randomized, double-masked, Phase 3 study in patients with treatment-naïve macular edema secondary to RVO
Randomized at baseline 1 (2q4) : 1 (8q8/3) : 1 (8q8/5)

2q4
Aflibercept 2 mg every 4 weeks[a]
n=301

8q8/3
Aflibercept 8 mg every 8 weeks, after 3 initial monthly injections[a]
n=293

8q8/5
Aflibercept 8 mg every 8 weeks, after 5 initial monthly injections[a]
n=298

Primary endpoint
Mean change in BCVA (non-inferiority)

	Day 1	W4	W8	W12	W16	W20	W24	W28	W32	W36
2q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T&E
8q8/3	X	X	X	o	X	o[b]	X	o[c]	X	T&E
8q8/5	X	X	X	X	X	o	X	o[c]	X	o[d]

DRM for interval shortening

Dosing interval shortened by 4 weeks if the last dosing interval was >4 weeks and both the following criteria are met at a dosing visit:

- BCVA loss of >5 letters from the reference visit, AND
- >50 µm increase in CRT from the reference visit[e]

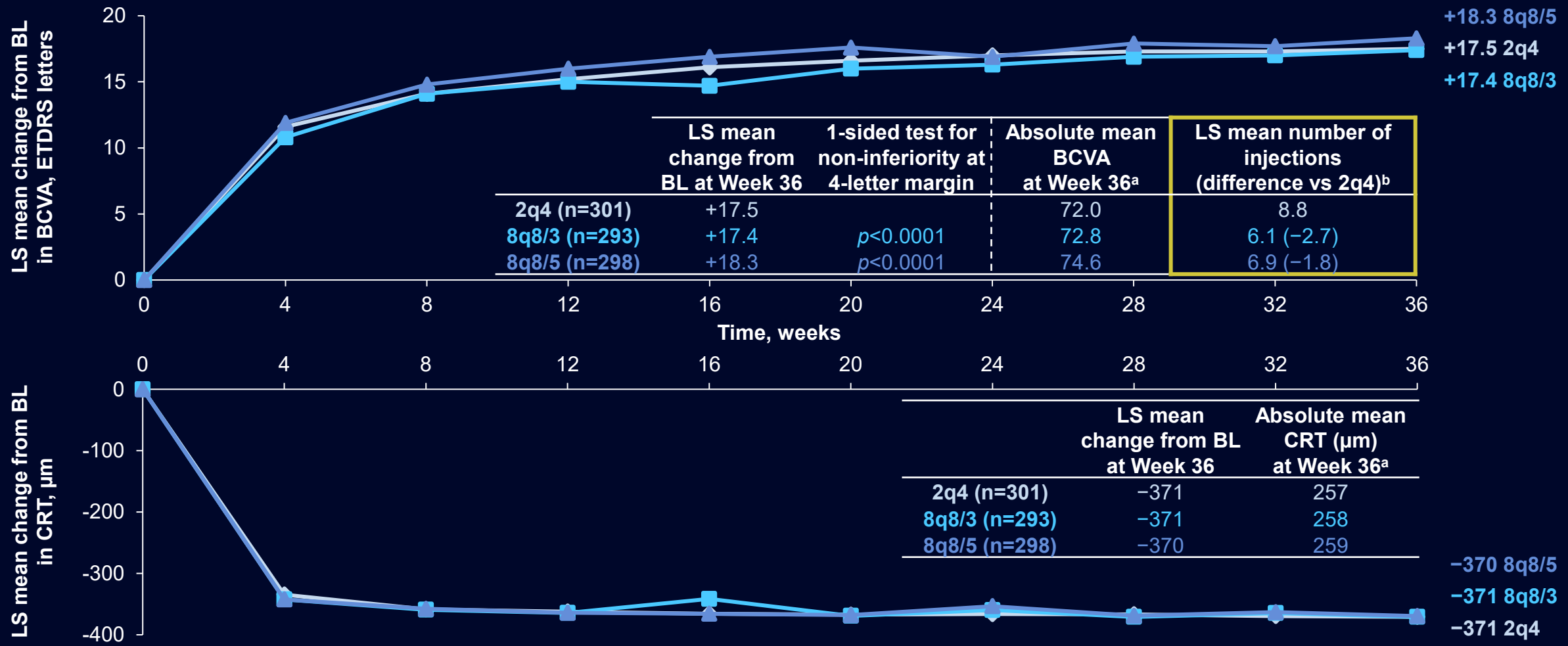
DRM for interval extension

Dosing interval extended by 4 weeks starting at Week 32 for 8q8/3 and 2q4 and at Week 40 for 8q8/5 if both the following criteria are met at a dosing visit:

- BCVA loss of <5 letters from the reference visit[e], AND
- CRT <320 µm Heidelberg/<300 µm Cirrus or Topcon SD-OCT

The primary efficacy endpoint was change from baseline in BCVA at Week 36, with a non-inferiority margin of 4 letters. Stippled boxes = initial treatment phase; X = active injection; o = sham injection. Note: Table does not reflect all dosing options once a patient's dosing interval is shortened. [a]With opportunity for extension per DRM. [b]Active injection for participants meeting DRM criteria at Week 16. [c]Active injection for participants meeting DRM criteria at Week 16 or 24. [d]Active injection for participants meeting DRM at Weeks 16, 24, or 32. [e]Reference is Week 12 for 8q8/3 and Week 20 for 8q8/5 and 2q4 (denoted by green boxes on table). **2q4**, aflibercept 2 mg administered every 4 weeks; **8q8/3**, aflibercept 8 mg administered every 8 weeks, after 3 initial injections at 4-week intervals; **8q8/5**, aflibercept 8 mg administered every 8 weeks, after 5 initial injections at 4-week intervals; **BCVA**, best-corrected visual acuity; **CRT**, central subfield retinal thickness; **DRM**, dose-regimen modification; **RVO**, retinal vein occlusion; **SD-OCT**, spectral domain-optical coherence tomography; **T&E**, treat and extend; **W**, week.

Aflibercept 8 mg Groups Achieved Non-inferior BCVA Gains and Robust CRT Reductions Compared to Aflibercept 2 mg at Week 36, with Fewer Injections

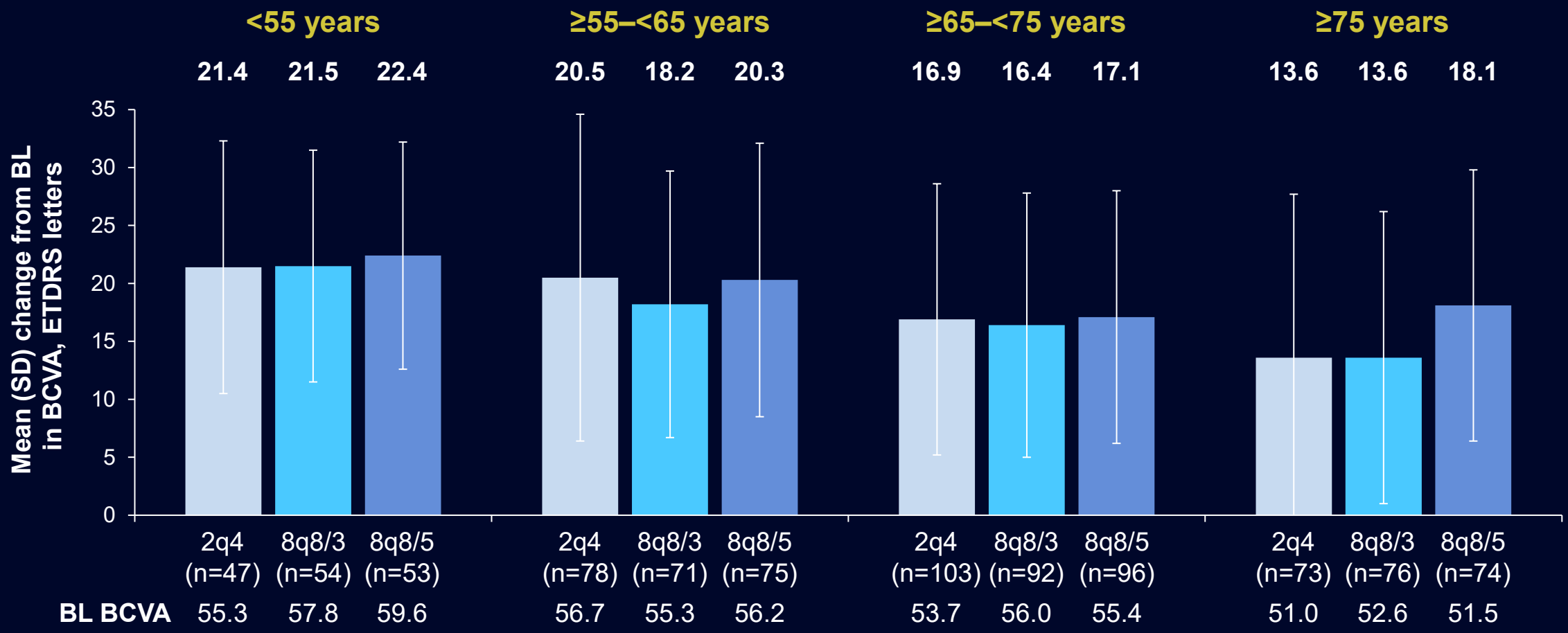


	LS mean change from BL at Week 36	1-sided test for non-inferiority at 4-letter margin	Absolute mean BCVA at Week 36[a]	LS mean number of injections (difference vs 2q4)[b]
2q4 (n=301)	+17.5		72.0	8.8
8q8/3 (n=293)	+17.4	*p*<0.0001	72.8	6.1 (−2.7)
8q8/5 (n=298)	+18.3	*p*<0.0001	74.6	6.9 (−1.8)

	LS mean change from BL at Week 36	Absolute mean CRT (µm) at Week 36[a]
2q4 (n=301)	−371	257
8q8/3 (n=293)	−371	258
8q8/5 (n=298)	−370	259

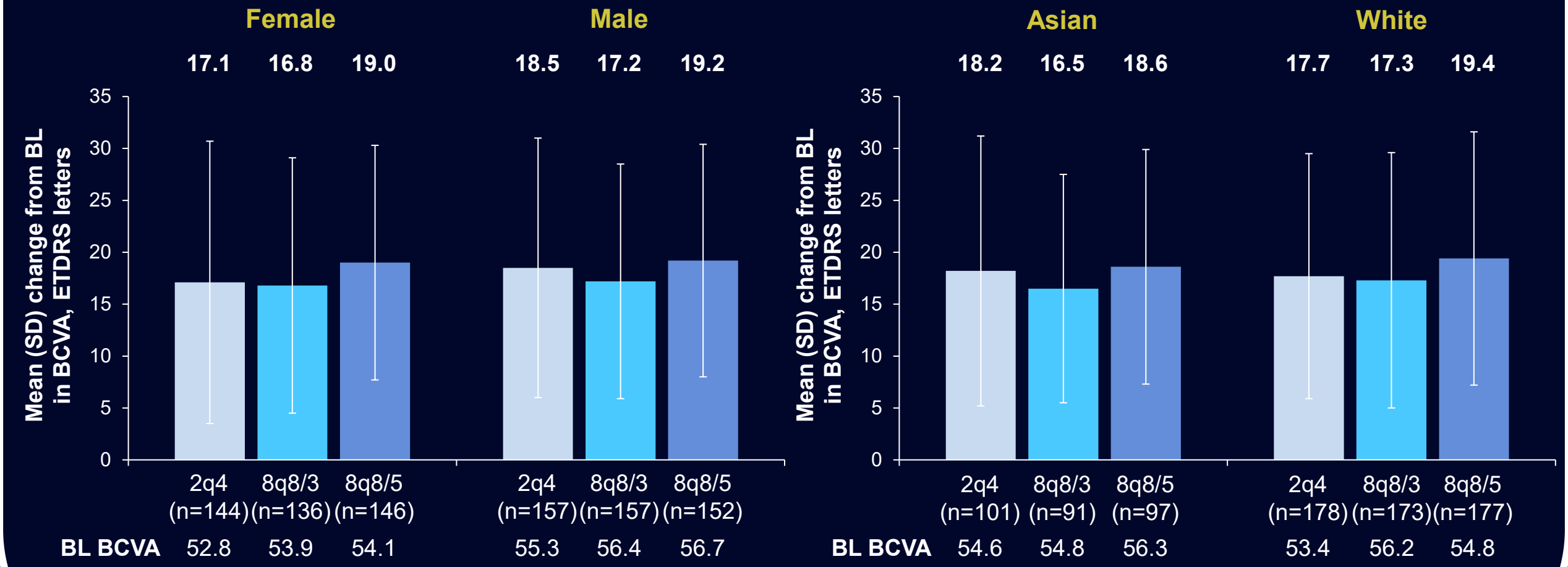
Full analysis set. LS means were generated using a mixed model for repeated measures with baseline BCVA as a covariate. The fixed factors were treatment group (aflibercept 8q8/3, 8q8/5, 2q4); visit; and stratification variables: geographic region (Japan, Asia-Pacific, Europe, America), BL BCVA (<60 vs ≥60 letters), and RVO type (CRVO/HRVO vs BRVO). The model also included terms for the interactions between baseline BCVA and visit, and between treatment and visit. [a]Observed values (censoring data post intercurrent event). [b]Missing endpoint values imputed using a multiple imputation procedure. Estimates based on a linear regression model, within the multiple imputation procedure, adjusted for BL BCVA, BL CRT, and stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs Asia-Pacific vs Europe vs America], BCVA score [>60 vs ≥60], RVO type [CRVO/HRVO vs BRVO]). **BL**, baseline; **BRVO**, branch retinal vein occlusion; **CI** ,confidence interval; **CRVO**, central retinal vein occlusion; **ETDRS**, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; **HRVO**, hemiretinal vein occlusion; **LS**, least squares.

Mean Change in BCVA at Week 36 by Age



Full analysis set. Observed values (censoring data post intercurrent event). **SD**, standard deviation.

Mean Change in BCVA at Week 36 by Sex and Race[a]



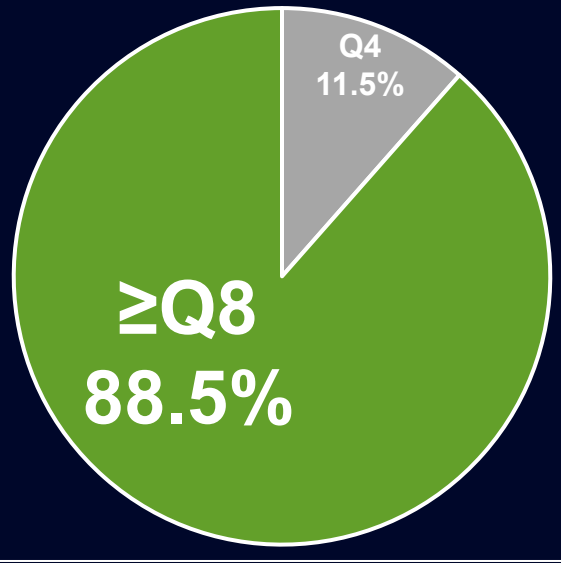
Full analysis set. Observed values (censoring data post intercurrent event). [a]The subgroup Black or African American race could not be evaluated due to small sample size (8, 7, and 9 patients in the 2q4, 8q8/3 and 8q8/5 groups, respectively).

Aflibercept Dosing Intervals Through Week 36

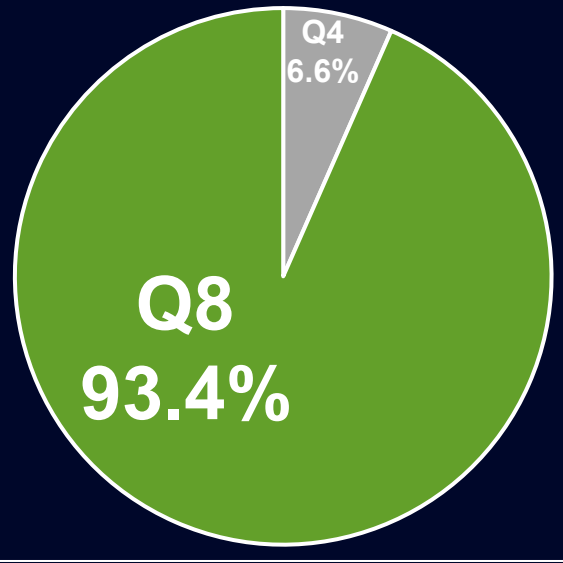
Maintained Dosing Interval[a]

Most patients in the 8q8 groups maintained a Q8 dosing interval through Week 36

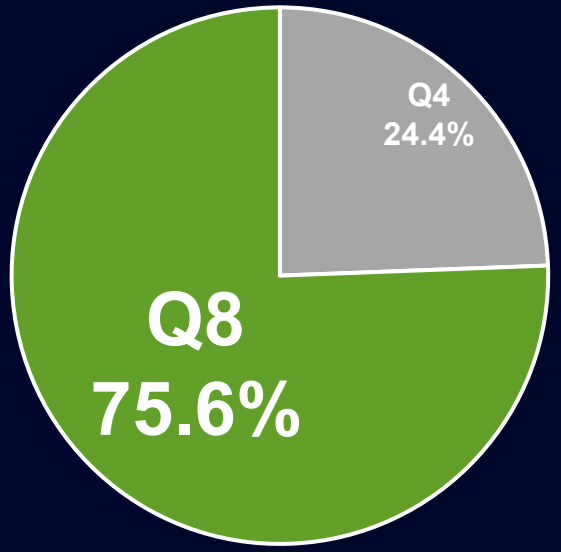
8q8/3 (n=278)



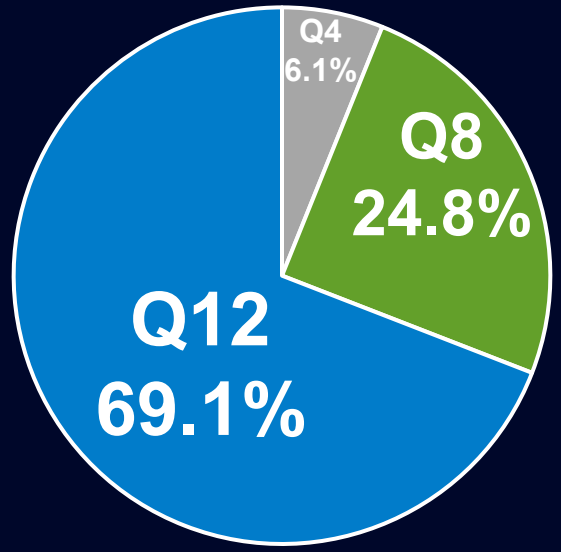
8q8/5 (n=273)



2q4 (n=287)



8q8/3 (n=278)



Last Assigned Dosing Interval[b]

Most patients in the 8q8/3 and 2q4 groups who were eligible for interval extension had a last assigned dosing interval of ≥Q8 at Week 36

Safety analysis set. Patients completing Week 36. [a]Per study design, all patients in the 2q4 group maintained a Q4 doing interval through Week 36. [b]Per DRM criteria, dosing interval extension was not possible in the 8q8/5 group until Week 40. **Q4**, every 4 weeks; **Q8**, every 8 weeks; **Q12**, every 12 weeks.

Ocular and Non-ocular Safety Through Week 36

	2q4 (n=301)	8q8/3 (n=293)	8q8/5 (n=298)	All 8 mg (n=591)
Ocular TEAEs in the study eye, n (%)	85 (28.2)	103 (35.2)	86 (28.9)	189 (32.0)
Ocular SAEs in the study eye, n (%)	8 (2.7)	3 (1.0)	4 (1.3)	7 (1.2)
Intraocular inflammation in the study eye, n (%)	4 (1.3)	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	3 (0.5)
Anterior chamber cell	1 (0.3)	0	0	0
Eye inflammation	1 (0.3)	0	0	0
Iritis	0	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.2)
Uveitis	0	0	1 (0.3)	1 (0.2)
Endophthalmitis	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.2)
Non-ocular SAEs, n (%)	26 (8.6)	22 (7.5)	28 (9.4)	50 (8.5)
APTC events, n (%)	5 (1.7)	0	3 (1.0)	3 (0.5)
Deaths, n (%)	2 (0.7)	2 (0.7)	3 (1.0)	5 (0.8)

No cases of occlusive retinal vasculitis were reported

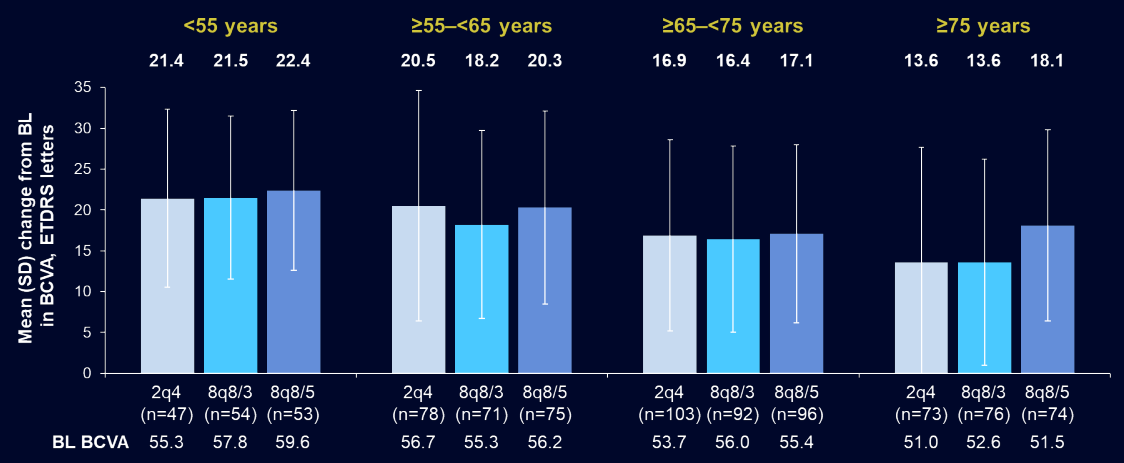
Aflibercept 8 mg had a safety profile consistent with the established safety profile of aflibercept 2 mg and 8 mg

Safety analysis set. **APTC**, Anti-Platelet Trialists' Collaboration; **SAE**, serious adverse event; **TEAE**, treatment-emergent adverse event.

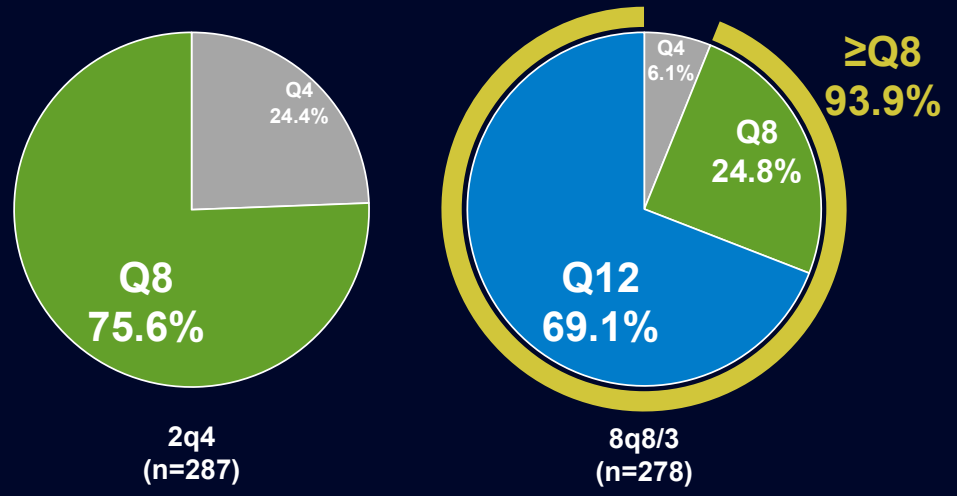
QUASAR: Paradigm Shift in the Treatment of RVO with Aflibercept 8 mg

- Aflibercept 8q8/3 and 8q8/5 groups achieved **non-inferior BCVA gains and robust reductions in CRT,** with fewer injections than in the aflibercept 2q4 group at Week 36
- Aflibercept 8 mg **achieved clinically meaningful BCVA gains from baseline** at Week 36 in patients with macular edema secondary to RVO **across evaluable subgroups of age, sex, and race** with fewer injections than in the aflibercept 2q4 group
- Approximately **94% of patients in the aflibercept 8q8/3 group achieved a last assigned dosing interval of ≥8 weeks**
- The safety profile of aflibercept 8 mg in patients with macular edema secondary to RVO was **consistent with the established safety profile of aflibercept 2 mg and 8 mg**

Mean Change in BCVA at Week 36 by Age



Last Assigned Dosing Interval at Week 36 for Patients Eligible for Interval Extension[d]



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