



A PULSAR Phase 3 Trial *Post-hoc* Analysis: Evaluating the Timing and Magnitude of Control of Disease Activity with Aflibercept 8 mg and Faricimab, Applying Similar Disease Activity Criteria Across Different Pivotal Phase 3 Trials for nAMD

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Disclosures



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 - **JFK**: Consultant for AbbVie, Apellis, Bayer, Eyepoint Pharma, Ocuphire, Ocular Therapeutix, Opthea, Roche, Théa Pharmaceuticals, and Carl Zeiss Meditec; member of the data safety monitoring board or advisory board for Alexion, Novo Nordisk, and Opthea; **PL**: Consultant for Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Allergan, Annexon, Apellis, Bausch + Lomb, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals, Genentech, I-Care, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutix, Outlook Therapeutics, and Roche; **PK**: Consultant for 2020 On-site, AbbVie/Allergan, Alexion, Alzheon, Annexon Biosciences, Aviceda Therapeutics, Bausch + Lomb, Bayer, Biogen, Bionic Vision Technologies, Carl Zeiss Meditec, Chengdu Kanghong Pharmaceutical Group, Coherus, Complement Therapeutics, Galimedix Therapeutics, Genentech/Roche, Innovent Biologics, iRenix Medical, jCyte, Kanaph Therapeutics, Kera Therapeutics, Kriya Therapeutics, Nanoscope Therapeutics, Novartis, Ocugenix, Ocular Therapeutix, Oculis, REGENXBIO, RetinaAI, Retinal Sciences, Samsung Bioepis, Stealth BioTherapeutics, Stuart Therapeutics, Sustained Nano Systems, Takeda, Théa Pharma, and Unity Biotechnology; Stock options for Ocular Therapeutix; **TM**: Employee of Bayer AG; **SL**: Employee of Bayer Consumer Care AG, stock options for Bayer; **XZ**: Employee of Bayer Consumer Care AG.
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Background and Aims



PULSAR, and **TENAYA & LUCERNE**, were studies using anti-VEGF therapies with **presumed different durability**, and with **different treatment algorithms** and criteria for interval modification

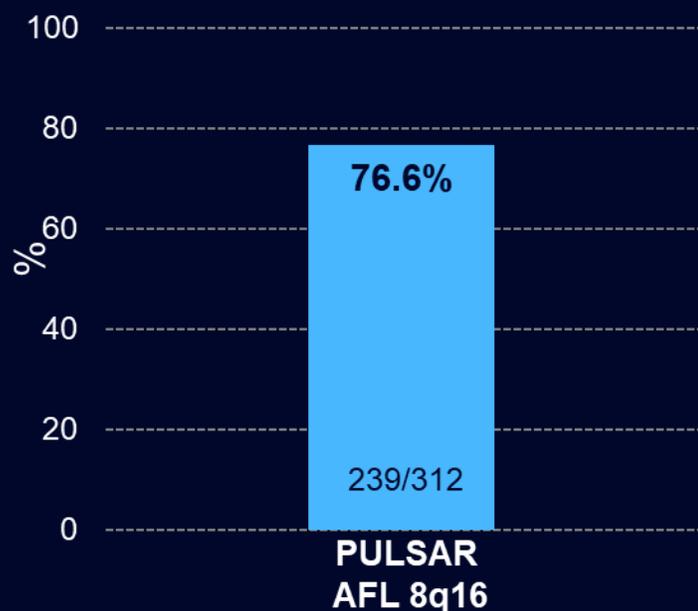
PULSAR
N=1009

Aflibercept 8 mg (8q12/8q16) vs aflibercept 2 mg (2q8) for treatment-naïve nAMD¹

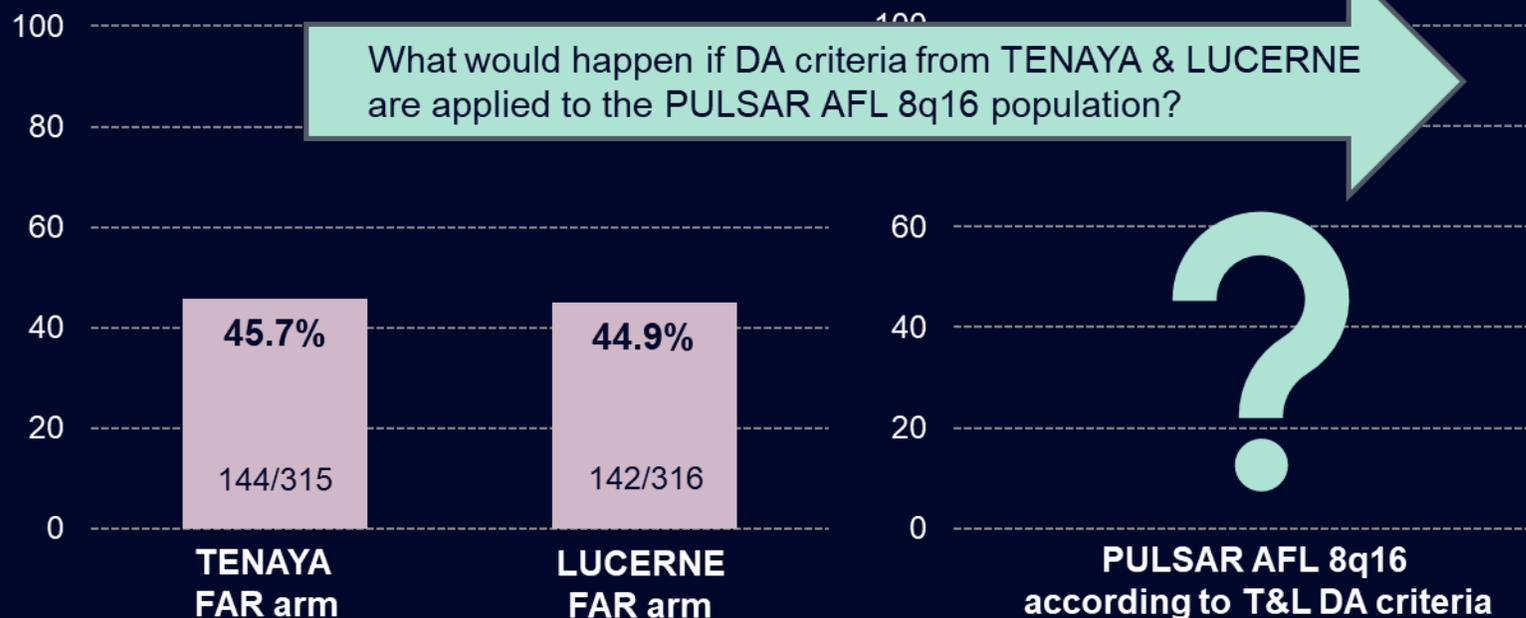
TENAYA & LUCERNE
N=1329

Faricimab 6 mg (up to q16) vs aflibercept 2 mg (2q8) for treatment-naïve nAMD²

Proportion of **Patients** Maintaining q16 Dosing Through Week 48 (%)¹

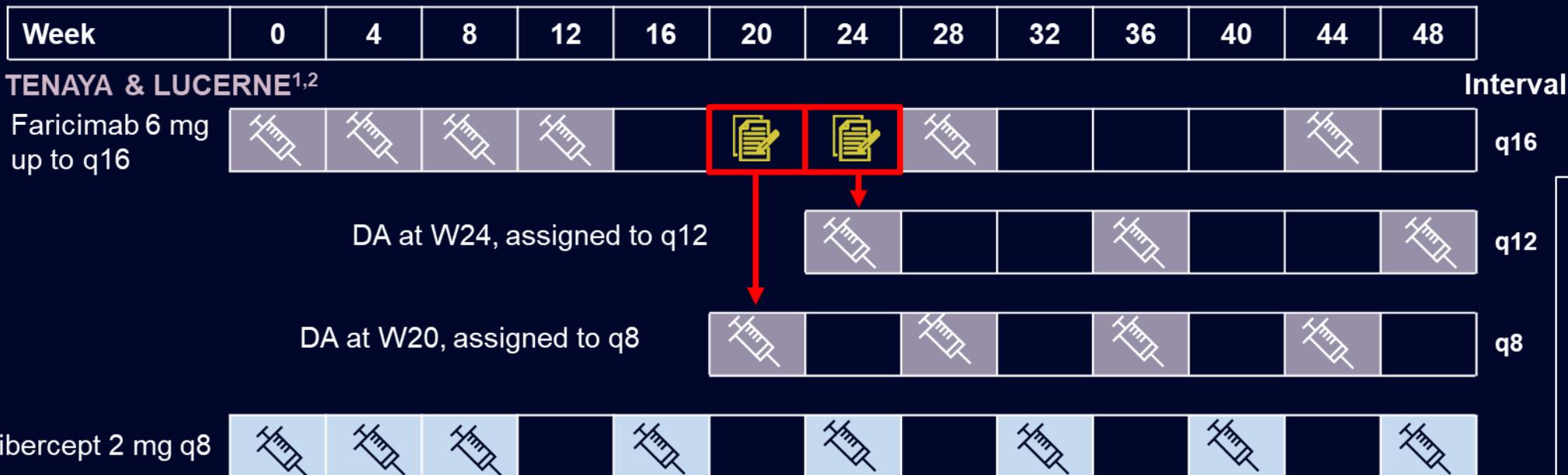


Proportion of **Patients** assigned to q16 Dosing Through Week 48 (%)²



^{2q8}, aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks; ^{8q12/8q16}, aflibercept 8 mg every 12/16 weeks; AFL, aflibercept; anti-VEGF, anti-vascular endothelial growth factor; DA, disease activity; FAR, faricimab; nAMD, neovascular age-related macular degeneration; q16, every 16 weeks; T&L, TENAYA & LUCERNE. 1. Lanzetta P, et al. Lancet. 2024;403:1141–1152. 2. Heier J, et al. Lancet. 2022;399:729–740.

TENAYA & LUCERNE Study Design



- Injection of study drug
- Opportunity for interval adjustment
- Prespecified DA assessment

Prespecified DA assessment

CST increase

BCVA loss^a

>50 μm (vs average CST over previous 2 scheduled visits)	or	$\geq 75 \mu\text{m}$ (vs lowest CST at either of previous 2 scheduled visits)	or	≥ 5 letters (vs average BCVA over previous 2 scheduled visits)	or	≥ 10 letters (vs highest BCVA at either of previous 2 scheduled visits)	or	New macular hemorrhage (per the investigator and attributable to nAMD)
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Representations of study design have been simplified, please refer to original publications for more information. In TENAYA & LUCERNE, sham injections given to mask treatment intervals (i.e., at every visit if not receiving study treatment). ^aOwing to nAMD DA. BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; CST, central subfield thickness; q8/q12/q16, every 8/12/16 weeks.

1. Khanani A. et al. Ophthalmol Sci. 2021;17;100076. 2. Heier J. et al. Lancet. 2022;399:729–740.

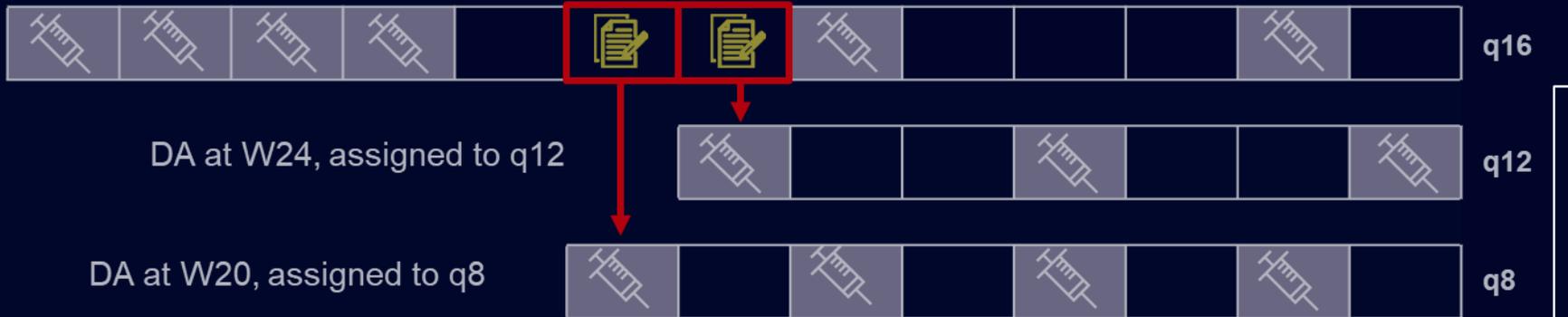
TENAYA & LUCERNE, and PULSAR, Study Design



Week	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
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TENAYA & LUCERNE^{1,2}

Faricimab 6 mg up to q16



Aflibercept 2 mg q8



PULSAR³

Aflibercept 8q16



Aflibercept 8q12



Aflibercept 2q8



- Injection of study drug
- Opportunity for interval adjustment
- Prespecified DA assessment

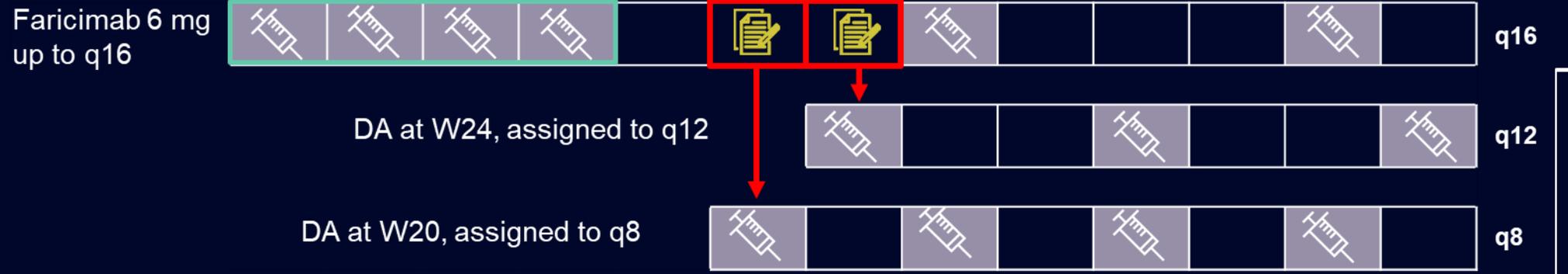
Note: Difference in the number of opportunities for interval adjustment

Representations of study designs have been simplified, please refer to original publications for more information. In PULSAR and in TENAYA & LUCERNE, sham injections given to mask treatment intervals (i.e., at every visit if not receiving study treatment). 1. Khanani A. et al. Ophthalmol Sci. 2021;17:100076. 2. Heier J. et al. Lancet. 2022;399:729–740. 3. Lanzetta P, et al. Lancet. 2024;403:1141–1152.

Application of TENAYA & LUCERNE DA Criteria to PULSAR 8q16 Population

Week	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
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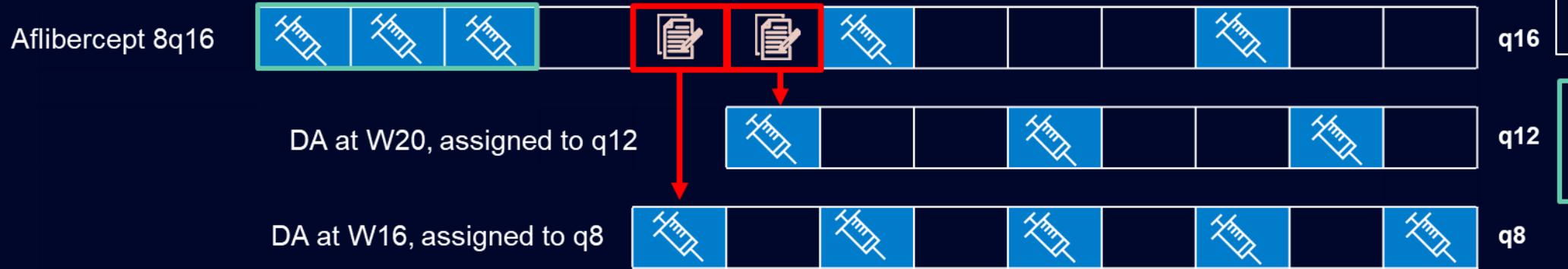
TENAYA & LUCERNE^{1,2}



PULSAR³



PULSAR hypothetical interval assignment according to DA criteria from TENAYA & LUCERNE

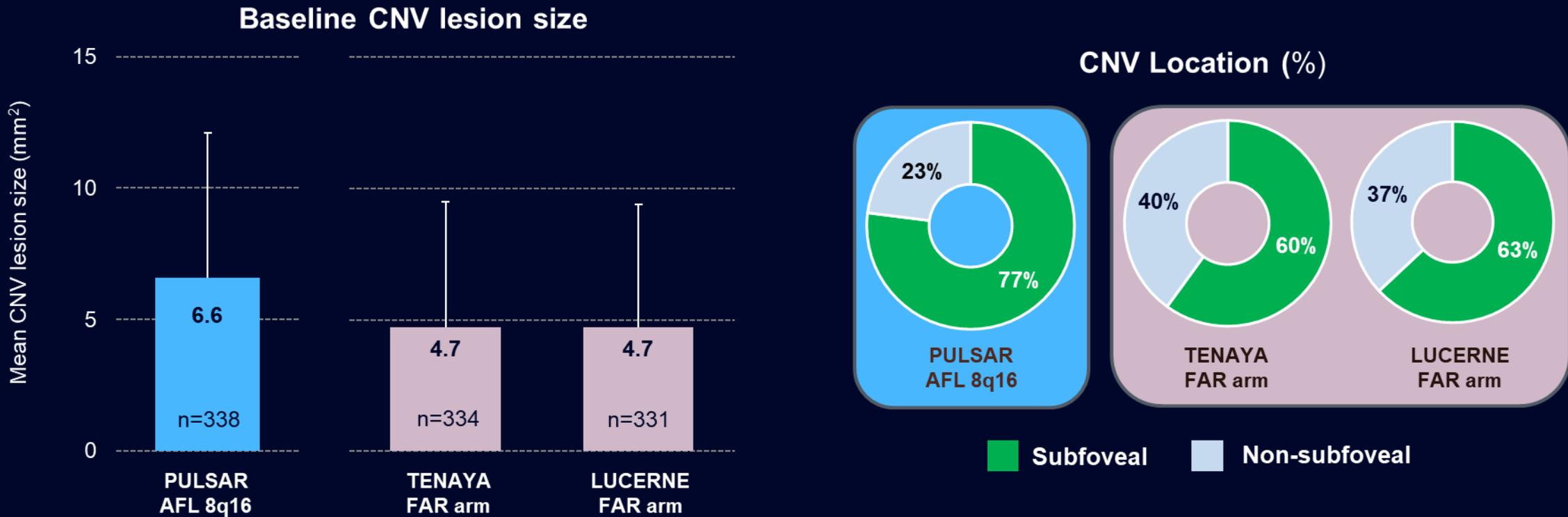


-  Injection of study drug
-  Opportunity for interval adjustment
-  Prespecified DA assessment
-  DA assessment based on T&L criteria

Note: Difference in the number of initial monthly injections

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Baseline Characteristics of Patients in PULSAR¹ and TENAYA & LUCERNE²

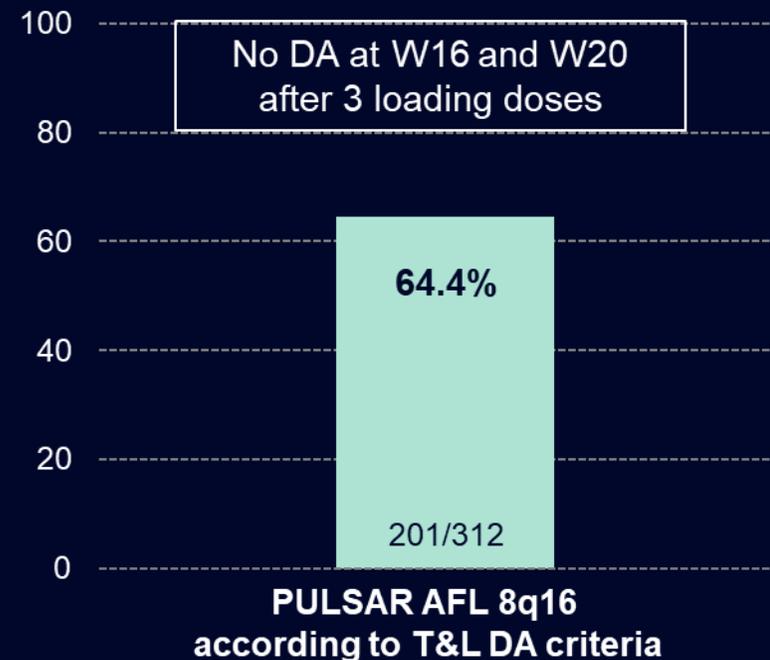
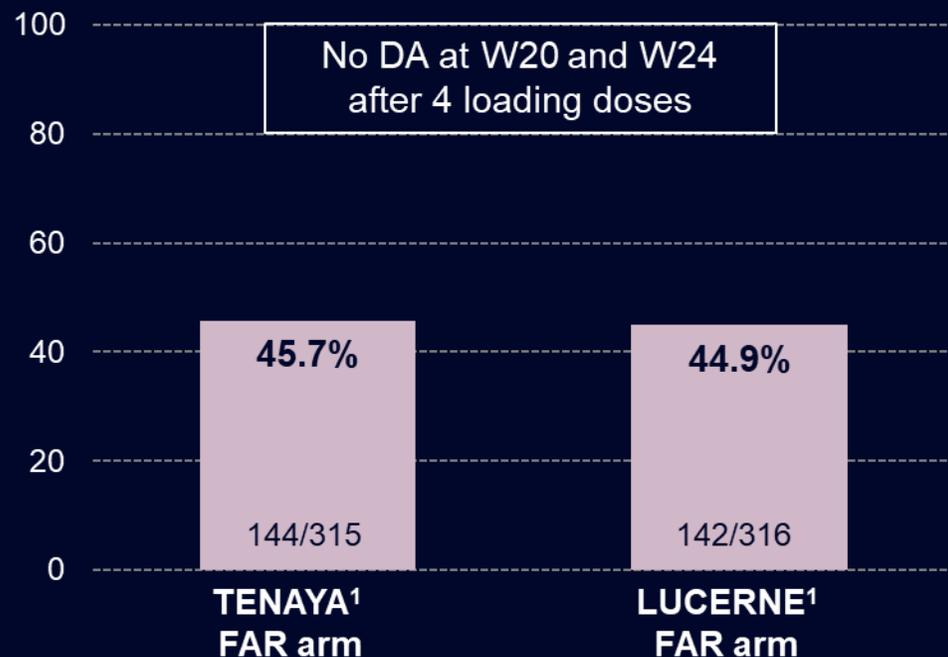


A conservative approach was used in this analysis

- Different magnitude of disease activity at baseline was observed in different studies
- No adjustments were made to compensate for **fewer initial monthly doses**, **larger lesion size**, or **higher proportion of subfoveal CNV** in **PULSAR**, even though these could increase the difficulty for **aflibercept 8mg** to achieve control of disease activity

Proportion of Patients Assigned to Aflibercept 8q16 Treatment Through W48 should TENAYA & LUCERNE DA Criteria be Applied

Proportion of Patients assigned to q16 Dosing Through Week 48 (%)



When DA criteria from TENAYA & LUCERNE are applied:

- **64%** of patients in the **aflibercept 8q16 group in PULSAR** are predicted to have no DA at W16 or W20 (and thus would be assigned to q16 dosing intervals through W48)
- This compares to **~45%** of patient receiving **faricimab** in **TENAYA & LUCERNE**, with no DA at W20 and W24

Conclusions



Findings from this *post-hoc* analysis support **earlier control of disease activity** with **aflibercept 8 mg** in PULSAR (**64% at W16/W20**) than that reported for faricimab in TENAYA and LUCERNE (**45% at W20/W24**),¹ using similar DA assessment criteria

Inter-trial assessments should be interpreted with caution due to various **limitations**, such as **differences in magnitude of baseline DA and impact of DA criteria on study protocols**

In this *post-hoc* analysis, limitations include the **differences in the number of initial monthly injections and baseline disease activity between PULSAR and TENAYA & LUCERNE**

Despite the **conservative approach** applied, these results should be **interpreted with caution**