



Intravitreal Aflibercept 8 mg Injection in Patients With Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration: 60-Week and 96-Week Results from the Phase 3 PULSAR Trial

**Paolo Lanzetta,¹ Andrea Schulze,² Ursula Schmidt-Ott,² Xin Zhang,³
Alyson Berliner,⁴ Karen Chu,⁴ Kimberly Reed,⁴ Robert Vitti,⁴
Sergio Leal,³ on behalf of the PULSAR study investigators**

¹Department of Medicine - Ophthalmology, University of Udine, and Istituto Europeo di Microchirurgia Oculare - IEMO, Udine-Milan, Italy

²Bayer AG, Berlin, Germany

³Bayer Consumer Care AG, Basel, Switzerland

⁴Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Tarrytown, NY, USA

Disclosures



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 - **AS:** Employee of Bayer AG. **USO:** Employee of Bayer AG, stockholder of Bayer AG. **XZ** and **SL:** Employees of Bayer Consumer Care AG. **AB, KC, KR,** and **RV:** Employees of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
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- The 48-week results of the PULSAR study were previously presented at The Retina Society 55th Annual Scientific Meeting, November 2–5, 2022; Angiogenesis, February 10–11, 2023; The 46th Annual Macular Society Meeting, February 15–18, 2023; FujiRetina, March 23–25, 2023; ARVO Annual Meeting, April 23–27, 2023; ASRS Annual Meeting, July 28–August 1, 2023
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PULSAR Study Design



Multicenter, randomized, double-masked study in patients with treatment-naïve nAMD
Randomized at baseline 1 (2q8) : 1 (8q12) : 1 (8q16)

2q8

Aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks
after 3 initial monthly injections
n=336

8q12

Aflibercept 8 mg every 12 weeks
after 3 initial monthly injections
n=335

8q16

Aflibercept 8 mg every 16 weeks
after 3 initial monthly injections
n=338

Primary endpoint at Week 48
Mean change in BCVA (non-inferiority)

Key secondary endpoints

Mean change in BCVA from baseline to Week 60^a
Proportion of patients without IRF and SRF in the center subfield at Week 16

End of study at Week 96
with optional 1-year extension through Week 156

^aFor European Medicines Agency/Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency regulatory approval only.

2q8, aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks; **8q12**, aflibercept 8 mg every 12 weeks; **8q16**, aflibercept 8 mg every 16 weeks; **BCVA**, best-corrected visual acuity; **IRF**, intraretinal fluid; **nAMD**, neovascular age-related macular degeneration; **SRF**, subretinal fluid.

PULSAR: Dosing Schedule and Regimen Modification



	Day 1	Wk 4	Wk 8	Wk 12	Wk 16	Wk 20	Wk 24	Wk 28	Wk 32	Wk 36	Wk 40	Wk 44	Wk 48	Wk 52	Wk 56	Wk 60
2q8	X	X	X		X	o	X	o	X	o	X	o	X	o	X	o
8q12	X	X	X		o	X	o	o	X	o	o	X	o	o	X	o
8q16	X	X	X		o	o	X	o	o	o	X	o	o	o	X	o

Primary endpoint

DRM: Interval Shortening During Years 1 and 2

Criteria for interval shortening

- >5-letter loss in BCVA compared with Week 12, due to persistent or worsening nAMD **AND**
- >25 μm increase in CST compared with Week 12, **OR** new-onset foveal neovascularization, **OR** foveal hemorrhage

Patients who met the DRM criteria could have their intervals shortened at:

- Weeks 16 and 20:** Patients on **8q12** and **8q16** to Q8
- Week 24:** Patients on **8q16** to Q12
- Weeks 32 and 44 for 8q12 and Week 40 for 8q16:** Intervals shortened by 4 weeks
- Week 52 onward:** Patients on **8q12** and **8q16** will have dosing intervals shortened in 4-week intervals (to a minimum of Q8)

DRM: Interval Extension During Year 2

Criteria for interval extension

- <5-letter loss in BCVA compared with Week 12 **AND**
- No fluid at the central subfield on OCT **AND**
- No new foveal hemorrhage or foveal neovascularization

Patients who met the DRM criteria were able to extend at:

- Week 52 onward:** Patients on **8q12** and **8q16** will have dosing intervals extended by 4-week increments. Patients on **8q16** can be extended to a maximum of Q20 and Q24 through Weeks 60 and 96 respectively

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 or extended. **CST**, central subfield thickness; **DRM**, dose regimen modification; **OCT**, optical coherence tomography; **Q8**, every 8 weeks; **Q12**, every 12 weeks; **Q20**, every 20 weeks; **Q24**, every 24 weeks; **Wk**, week.

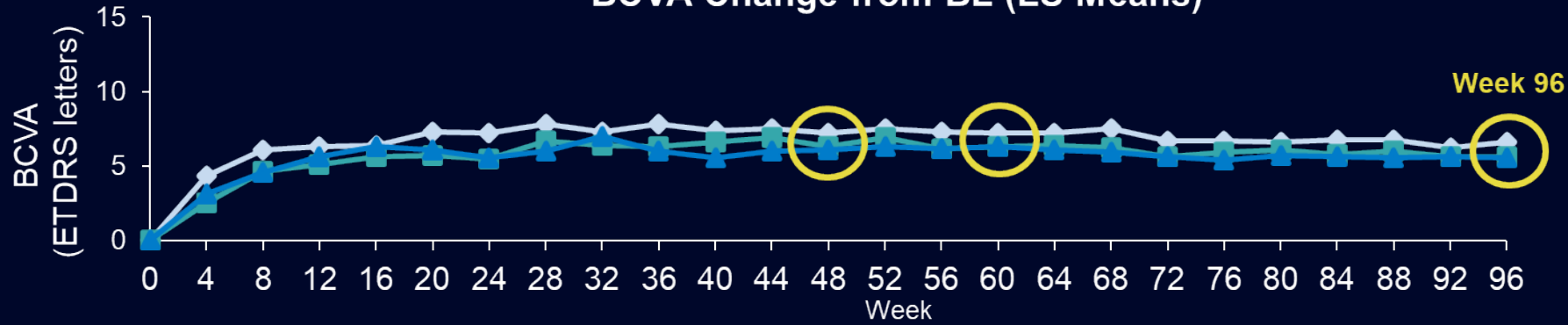
Patient Disposition and Baseline Characteristics

	2q8	8q12	8q16	Total
Randomized, n	337	336	338	1011
Patient disposition				
Completed Week 48, %	91.7	94.0	92.3	92.7
Completed Week 60, ^a %	90.5	92.6	91.4	91.5
Discontinued before Week 60, %	8.9	6.5	8.3	7.9
Baseline characteristics				
Age, years	74.2 (8.8)	74.7 (7.9)	74.5 (8.5)	74.5 (8.4)
Female, %	56.0	54.3	53.3	54.5
Race, %				
Asian	24.7	22.1	22.8	23.2
Black or African American	0.6	0.6	0	0.4
White	74.1	76.4	76.9	75.8
Not reported	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5
BCVA, ETDRS letters	58.9 (14.0)	59.9 (13.4)	60.0 (12.4)	59.6 (13.3)
CST, μm	367 (134)	370 (124)	371 (133)	369 (130)
Total lesion area, mm^2	6.9 (5.4)	6.4 (5.1)	6.9 (5.7)	6.7 (5.4)

FAS. Data are mean (SD) unless stated otherwise. ^aThe proportion of patients who completed and discontinued does not add up to 100% due to missing information from the study sites. ETDRS, Early Treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy Study; FAS, full analysis set; SD, standard deviation.

BCVA Outcomes

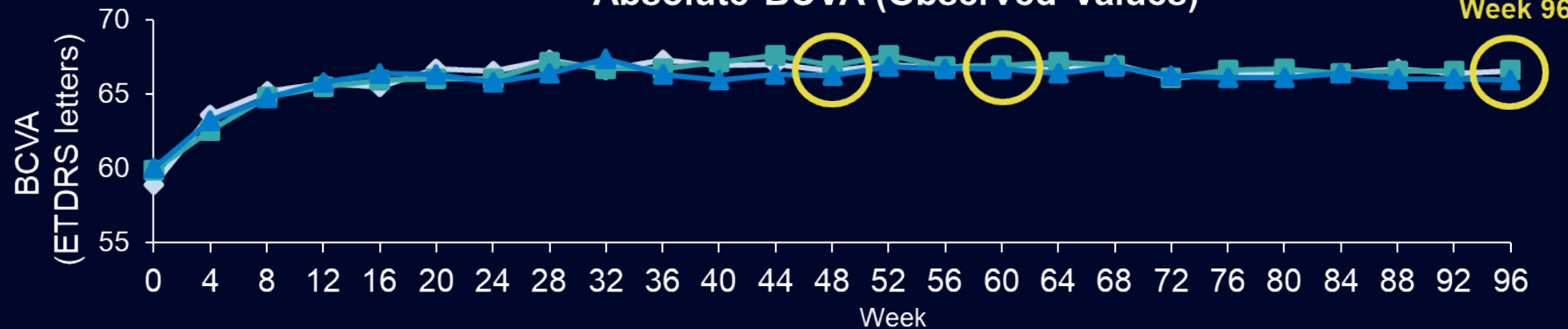
BCVA Change from BL (LS Means)^a



nAMD

	Week 48	Week 60	Week 96
2q8	+7.0	+7.2	+6.6
8q12	+6.1	+6.4	+5.6
8q16	+5.9	+6.3	+5.5

Absolute BCVA (Observed Values)^b



	Week 48	Week 60	Week 96
2q8	66.5	66.8	66.5
8q12	66.9	66.9	66.6
8q16	66.3	66.7	65.9

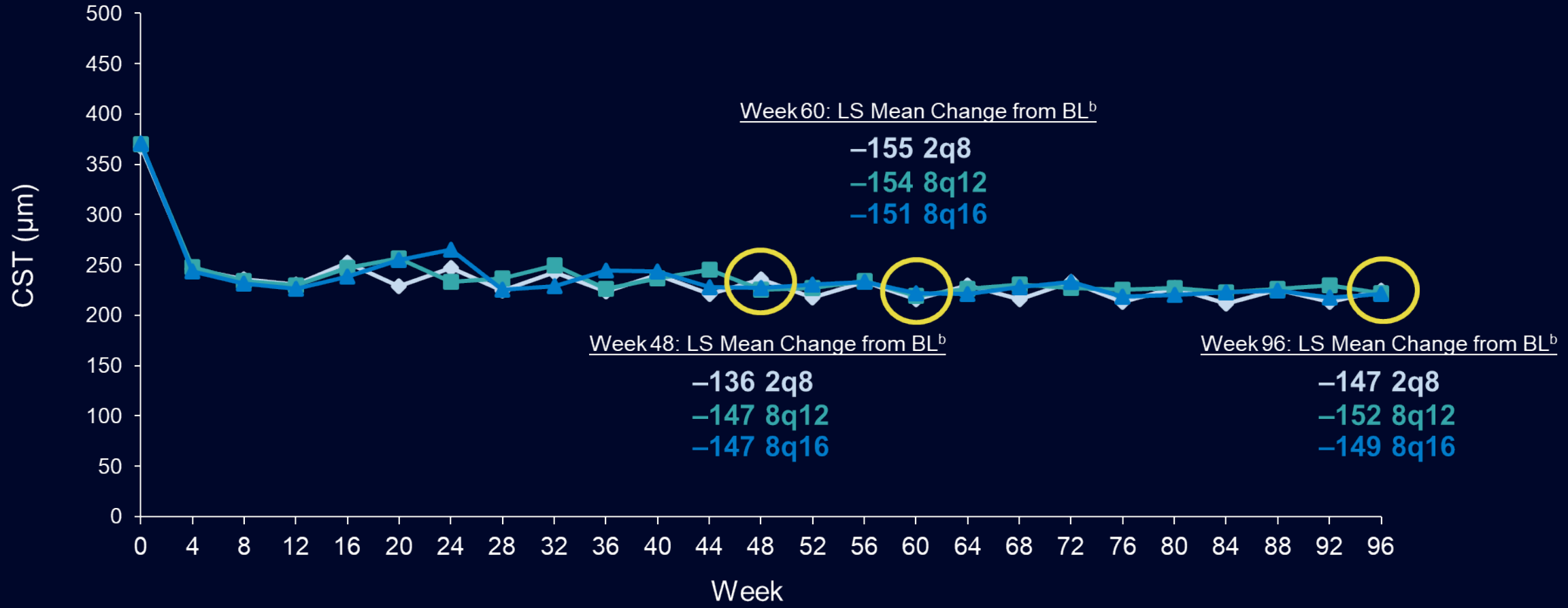
	LS mean change from BL ^a at Week 60 (MMRM)	Difference in LS means vs. 2q8 (95% CI)	One-sided test for non-inferiority at 4-letter margin	LS mean change from BL ^a at Week 96 (MMRM)	Difference in LS means vs. 2q8 (95% CI)	One-sided test for non-inferiority at 4-letter margin
2q8	7.2			6.6		
8q12	6.4	-0.86 (-2.57, 0.84)	p=0.0002	5.6	-1.01 (-2.82, 0.80)	p=0.0006 (nominal)
8q16	6.3	-0.92 (-2.51, 0.66)	p<0.0001	5.5	-1.08 (-2.87, 0.71)	p=0.0007 (nominal)

^aLS mean values (censoring data post-ICE); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL). LS means were generated using MMRM, with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate, treatment group (aflibercept 2q8, 8q12, 8q16), visit, and stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs. Rest of World] and BL BCVA [<60 vs. ≥ 60]) as fixed factors, and interaction terms for BL and visit and for treatment and visit. ^bObserved values (censoring data post-ICEs); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL).

BL, baseline; CI, confidence interval; ICE, intercurrent event; LS, least squares; MMRM, mixed model for repeated measures.

Central Subfield Thickness

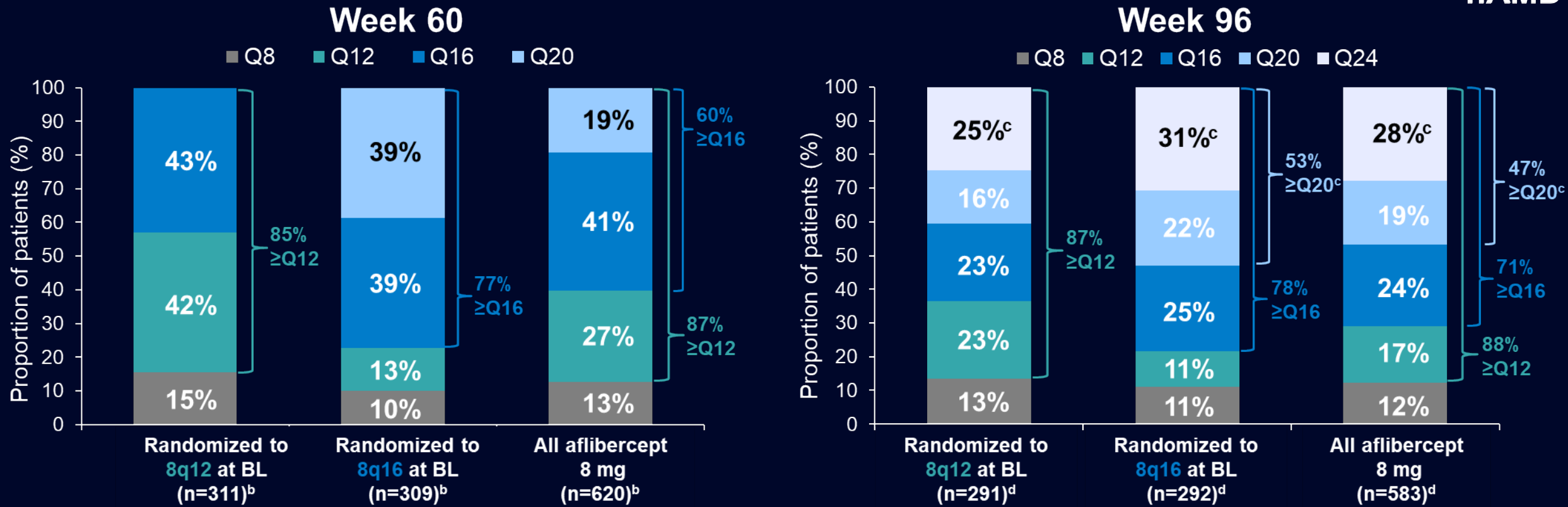
Absolute CST (Observed Values)^a



Change in CST was similar in the three treatment arms, with minimal fluctuations over the course of treatment

^aObserved values (censoring data post-ICE); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL). ^bLS mean values (censoring data post-ICE); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL). LS means were generated using MRMM, with BL CST measurement as a covariate, treatment group (afibercept 2q8, 8q12, 8q16), visit and stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs. Rest of World] and baseline BCVA [<60 vs. ≥60]) as fixed factors, and interaction terms for BL and visit and for treatment and visit.

Last Assigned Dosing Interval at Week 60 and Week 96^a



Mean number of active injections

	2q8	8q12	8q16
Week 48 ^e	6.9	6.1	5.2
Week 60 ^b	8.8	7.1	6.2
Week 96 ^d	12.8	9.7	8.2

^aDosing intervals were extended in Year 2 if patients had <5-letter loss in BCVA from Week 12 **AND** no fluid at the center subfield **AND** no new foveal hemorrhage or neovascularization. ^bPatients completing Week 60. ^cPatients were assigned to 24-week dosing intervals if they continued to meet extension criteria, but did not have enough time to complete the interval within the 96-week study period. ^dPatients completing Week 96. ^ePatients completing Week 48. Values may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Q16, every 16 weeks.

Safety Through Week 60



2q8

8q12

8q16

All 8 mg

N (SAF)	336	335	338	673
Ocular safety				
Patients with ≥ 1 ocular TEAE ^a	45.2%	42.4%	42.3%	42.3%
Patients with ≥ 1 IOI TEAE	1.2%	1.2%	0.3%	0.7%
Patients with IOP ≥ 35 mmHg pre- or post-injection	0.3%	0.9%	0.3%	0.6%
Non-ocular safety				
APTC events ^b	2.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%
Hypertension events ^b	4.8%	6.9%	6.5%	6.7%
Non-ocular SAEs ^b	15.8%	12.2%	12.1%	12.2%
Deaths ^c	1.5%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%

- Ocular TEAEs occurring in $\geq 3\%$ of patients in any treatment group were cataract, IOP increased,^d SRF, retinal hemorrhage, visual acuity reduced, and vitreous floaters
- The safety profile of aflibercept 8 mg at Week 96 is comparable to that at Week 60, and also with aflibercept 2 mg

^aIn the study eye. ^bTreatment emergent. ^cAll events. ^dDefined by preferred terms "intraocular pressure increased" and "ocular hypertension".

APTC, Anti-Platelet Trialists' Collaboration; **IOI**, intraocular inflammation; **IOP**, intraocular pressure; **SAE**, serious adverse event; **SAF**, safety analysis set; **TEAE**, treatment-emergent adverse event.

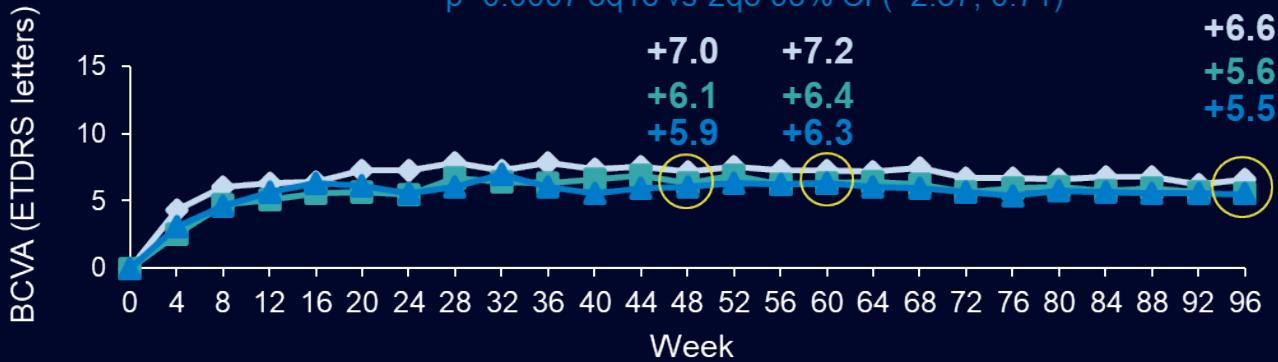
PULSAR: 60- and 96-Week Results



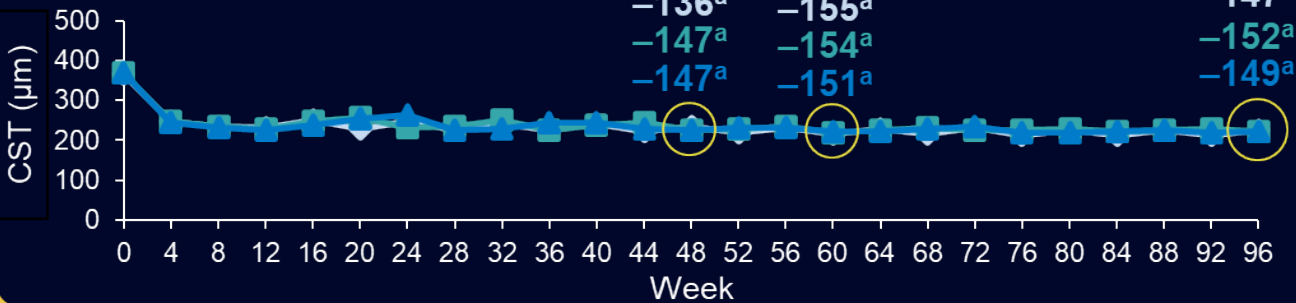
- Aflibercept 8 mg groups achieved similar BCVA gains compared with the aflibercept 2 mg group at Weeks 60 and 96
- Anatomic improvement in PULSAR for aflibercept 8 mg was generally maintained over time at Weeks 60 and 96
- At Weeks 60 and 96 respectively, **91% and 89%** of patients receiving aflibercept 8q16 achieved \geq Q12 dosing intervals and **77% and 78%** achieved \geq Q16 intervals
- The safety profile of aflibercept 8 mg was comparable to that of aflibercept 2 mg over 96 weeks

BCVA Change from BL (LS Means) through Week 96^a

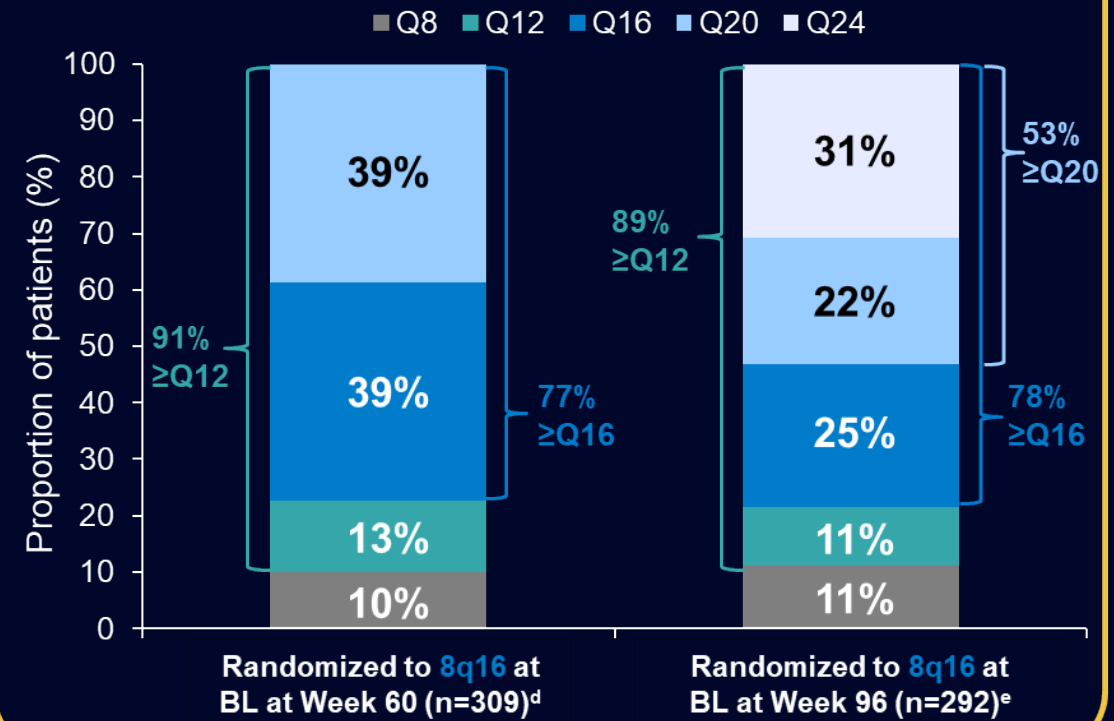
Week 60: $p=0.0006$ 8q12 vs 2q8 95% CI (-2.28, 0.80)^b
 $p=0.0007$ 8q16 vs 2q8 95% CI (-2.87, 0.71)^b



Absolute CST (Observed Values) through Week 96^c



Aflibercept 8q16: Last Assigned Dosing Interval at Week 60 and Week 96



^aLS mean values (censoring data post-ICE); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL). ^bp values for the one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of four letters (based on adjusted means derived using an MMRM). ^cObserved values (censoring data post-ICE); FAS: 2q8 n=336; 8q12 n=335; 8q16 n=338 (at BL). ^dPatients completing Week 60. ^ePatients completing Week 96. Values may not add up to 100% due to rounding.