

Aflibercept 8 mg in Diabetic Macular Edema: 156-Week Results From the PHOTON Extension Study

Sobha Sivaprasad, MD,¹ Ghassan Ghorayeb, MD,² on behalf of the PHOTON extension study investigators

¹Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, UK; ²West Virginia University Eye Institute, Morgantown, WV, USA

Disclosures



- **Sobha Sivaprasad**: Consulting fees from AbbVie, Alimera Science, Amgen, Astellas, Bayer, Biogen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Clearside Biomedical, Eyebiotech, Eyepoint Phamaceuticals, Iveric Bio/Astellas Pharma, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Kriya Therapeutics, Nova Nordisk, Ocular Therapeutix, OcuTerra, Optos, Ripple Therapeutics, Roche, Stealth Biotherapeutics, and Sanofi.
 - GG: No financial disclosures
- This study was sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Tarrytown, NY) and co-funded by Bayer AG (Leverkusen, Germany). The sponsors participated in the design and conduct of the study, analysis of the data, and preparation of this presentation
- This study includes research conducted on human patients. Institutional Review Board approval was obtained prior to initiation of the study
- Data were originally presented at the Angiogenesis, Exudation, and Degeneration 2025 Meeting, February 8, 2025

PHOTON Extension Study Design

photon

PHOTON

PHOTON Extension

Extension



Aflibercept 2 mg every 8 weeks after 5 initial monthly injections **n=167**

2q8→8mg

Patients originally assigned to 2q8 switched to aflibercept 8 mg every 12 weeks n=70

Treatment-naïve and previously treated patients with center-involved DME

8q12

Aflibercept 8 mg every 12 weeks after 3 initial monthly injections

n=328

8mg^a

Patients originally assigned to 8q12 or 8q16 continued aflibercept 8 mg on last assigned dosing interval

n=195

8q16

Aflibercept 8 mg every 16 weeks after 3 initial monthly injections

n=163

Dosing intervals in 8q12 and 8q16 groups were shortened (beginning at Week 16) or extended (beginning at Week 52) by 4-week increments if patients met protocol-specified criteria

Dosing intervals were shortened or extended by 2-week increments if patients met protocol-specified criteria

Week

48

Start of PHOTON Extension^b

.....

End of PHOTON Extension

156

Primary endpoint
Change from baseline
in BCVA (non-inferiority)

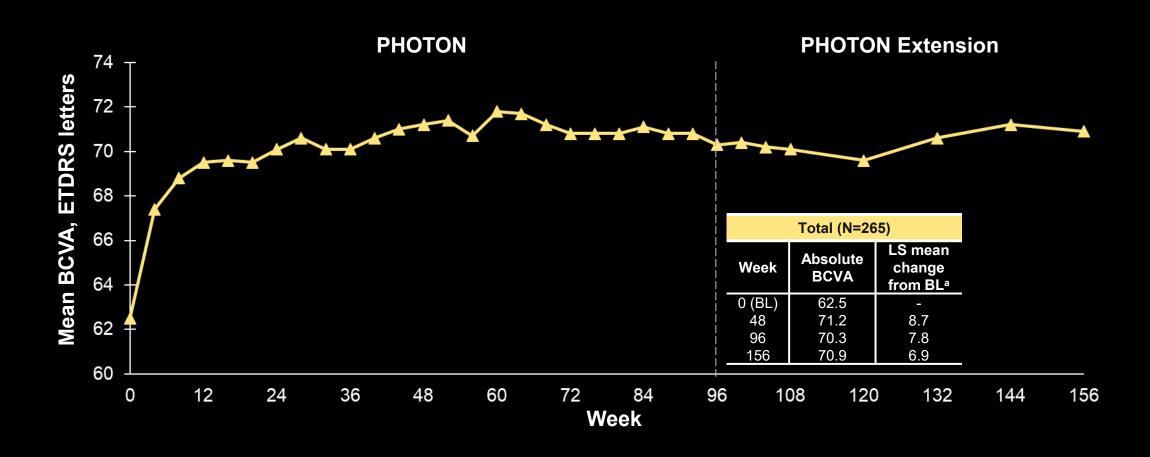
^aPatients who were randomized to the 8q12 or 8q16 groups at the beginning of the PHOTON study and continued treatment with aflibercept 8 mg through the PHOTON extension study. ^bOptional extension phase was added while the pivotal study was ongoing; therefore, not all patients were able to enroll due to time constraints.

<u>BCVA</u>, best-corrected visual acuity; DME, diabetic macular edema.

Mean BCVA Through Week 156

All Patients in PHOTON Extension





eFAS, observed cases.

^aLS mean values were generated using MMRM, with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate, treatment group, visit and the stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs rest of the world]; baseline CRT [<400 μm vs ≥400 μm], prior treatment for DME (per EDC) [yes vs. no]) as fixed factors, and terms for the interaction between baseline and visit and the interaction between treatment and visit.

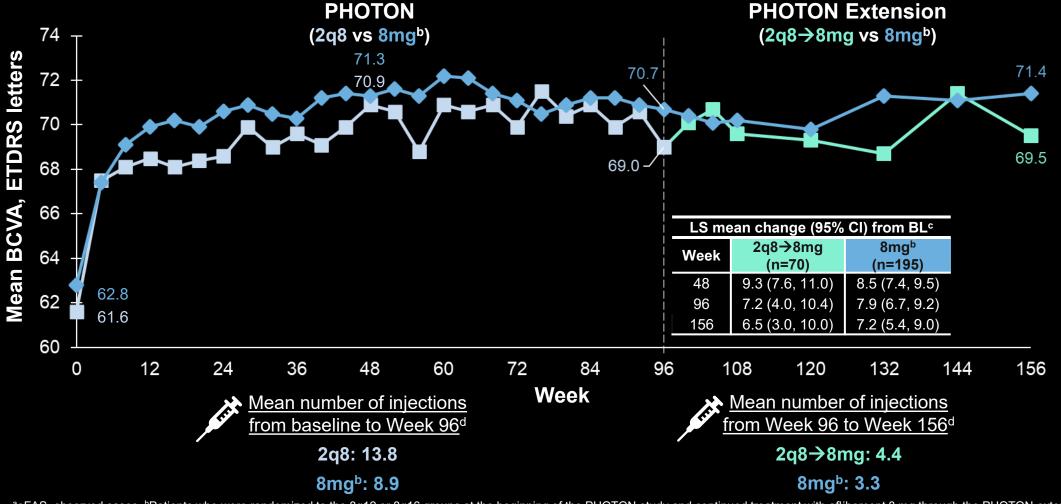
BL, baseline; CI, confidence interval; LS, least square; MMRM, mixed model for repeated measurements.

Mean BCVA^a Through Week 156

2q8→8mg and 8mg^b Patients







^aeFAS, observed cases. ^bPatients who were randomized to the 8q12 or 8q16 groups at the beginning of the PHOTON study and continued treatment with aflibercept 8 mg through the PHOTON extension study. ^cLS mean values were generated using MMRM and a weighting scheme based on observed margins, with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate, treatment group, visit and the stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs rest of the world]; baseline CRT [<400 μm vs ≥400 μm], prior treatment for DME (per EDC) [yes vs. no]) as fixed factors, and terms for the interaction between treatment and visit. ^deFAS.

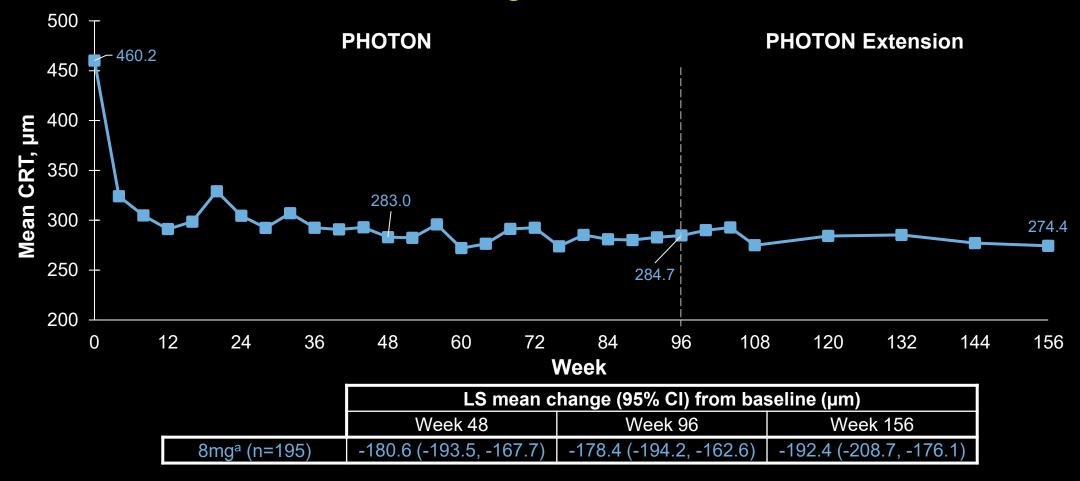
BL, baseline; CI, confidence interval; CRT, central retinal thickness; EDC, electronic data capture; eFAS, PHOTON extension full analysis set; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; LS, least squares; MMRM, mixed model for repeated measurements.

Mean CRT Through Week 156

photon

8mg^a Patients





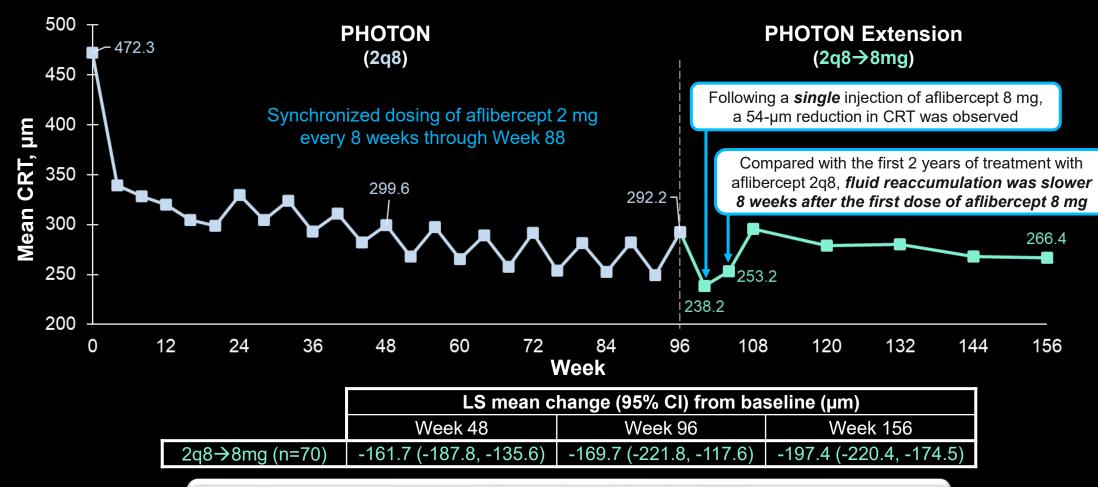
^aPatients who were randomized to the 8q12 or 8q16 groups at the beginning of the PHOTON study and continued treatment with aflibercept 8 mg through the PHOTON extension study. LS mean values were generated using MMRM and a weighting scheme based on observed margins, with baseline CRT measurement as a covariate, treatment group, visit and the stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs rest of the world]; baseline CRT [<400 μm vs ≥400 μm], prior treatment for DME (per EDC) [yes vs. no]) as fixed factors, and terms for the interaction between baseline and visit and the interaction between treatment and visit. eFAS, observed cases.

Mean CRT Through Week 156

2q8→8mg Patients





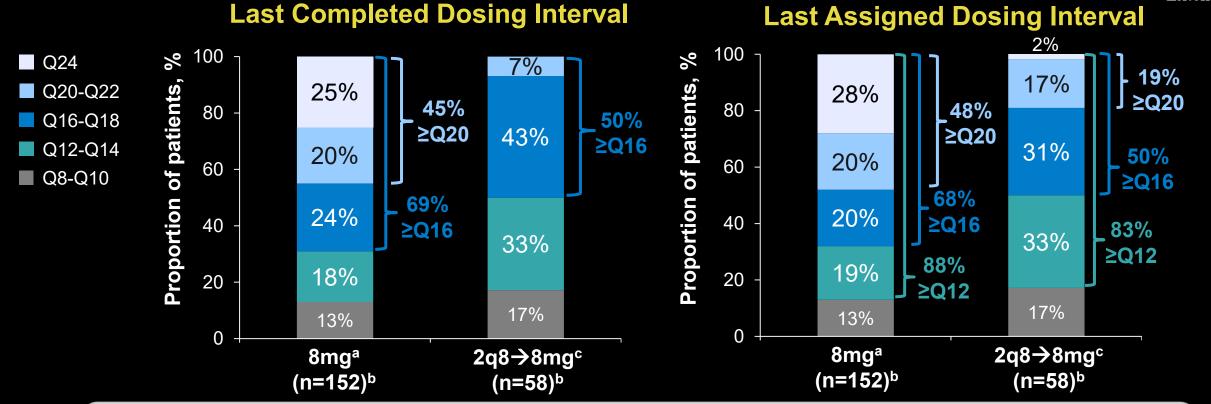


Numerically greater reduction in CRT was observed at Week 156 after switching to aflibercept 8 mg compared with aflibercept 2q8

eFAS, observed cases. LS mean values were generated using MMRM and a weighting scheme based on observed margins, with baseline CRT measurement as a covariate, treatment group, visit and the stratification variables (geographic region [Japan vs rest of the world]; baseline CRT [<400 µm vs ≥400 µm], prior treatment for DME (per EDC) [yes vs. no]) as fixed factors, and terms for the interaction between baseline and visit and the interaction between treatment and visit.

Majority of Patients in the 8mg and 2q8→8mg Groups photon Achieved Extended Dosing Intervals at Week 156





88% and 83% of patients in the 8mg and 2q8→8mg group, respectively, had a *last assigned dosing interval* of ≥12 weeks at Week 156

^aPatients who were randomized to the 8q12 or 8q16 groups at the beginning of the PHOTON study and continued treatment with aflibercept 8 mg through the PHOTON extension study. ^beFAS, patients completing Week 156.

Per protocol and E-DRM, patients in the 2q8→8mg group could have achieved a last completed dosing interval of Q18 and a last assigned dosing interval of Q20 weeks by Week 156. Several patients were assigned a dosing interval that was longer than planned per E-DRM and actual dates of injections received due to late visits. Values may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

E-DRM, PHOTON extension dosing regimen modification.

Ocular and Non-ocular Safety Through Week 156a



Extension

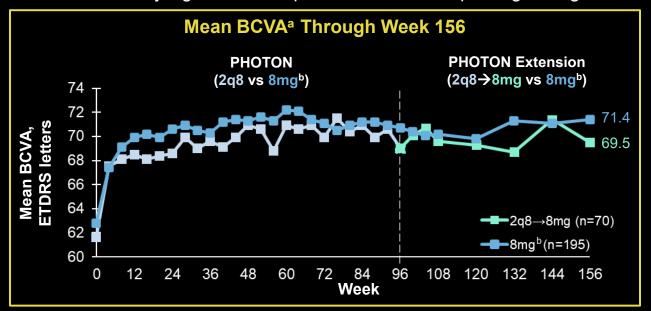
	2q8→8mg	8mg ^b	Total
N (eSAF)	70	195	265
Ocular AEs, n (%) ^c	37 (52.9)	108 (55.4)	145 (54.7)
Ocular SAEs, n (%) ^c	3 (4.3)	4 (2.1)	7 (2.6)
Intraocular inflammation, n (%) ^c	1 (1.4)	3 (1.5)	4 (1.5)
Iritis	0	2 (1.0)	2 (0.8)
Iridocyclitis	1 (1.4)	0	1 (0.4)
Uveitis	1 (1.4)	0	1 (0.4)
Endophthalmitis	0	1 (0.5)	1 (0.4)
Non-ocular SAEs, n (%) ^c	24 (34.3)	58 (29.7)	82 (30.9)
APTC events, n (%) ^c	5 (7.1)	14 (7.2)	19 (7.2)
Deaths, n (%) ^d	2 (2.9)	10 (5.1)	12 (4.5)

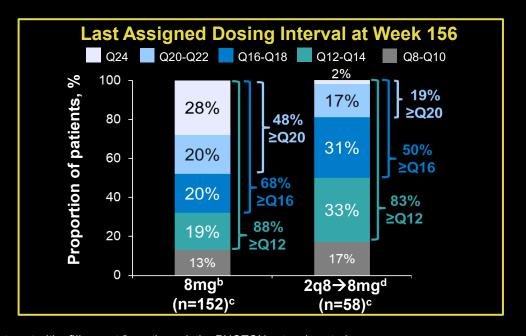
- Ocular TEAEs reported in >4% of all patients included cataract, vitreous floaters, vitreous detachment, and diabetic retinal edema
- No cases of occlusive vasculitis were reported

PHOTON Extension: Key Week 156 Results



- Patients in the **8mg group** maintained visual and anatomic improvements achieved in the first 2 years, with the majority of patients on Extense extended dosing intervals
 - 45% completed ≥20-week dosing intervals and 48% had a last assigned dosing interval of ≥20 weeks at Week 156
- In the **2q8→8mg group**, visual and anatomic improvements achieved with fixed 2q8 dosing were maintained with aflibercept 8 mg
 - 83% of patients achieved ≥12-week dosing intervals at Week 156
 - Longer duration of action with aflibercept 8 mg vs 2 mg was further supported by slower fluid reaccumulation following the first aflibercept 8-mg injection
- No new safety signals were reported with aflibercept 8 mg through Week 156





^aeFAS. observed cases

^bPatients who were randomized to the 8q12 or 8q16 groups at the beginning of the PHOTON study and continued treatment with aflibercept 8 mg through the PHOTON extension study. ^ceFAS, patients completing Week 156.

dPer protocol and E-DRM, patients in the 2q8→8mg group could have achieved a last completed dosing interval of Q18 and a last assigned dosing interval of Q20 weeks by Week 156. Several patients were assigned a dosing interval that was longer than planned per E-DRM and actual dates of injections received due to late visits.