## The OPTIC Study of Intravitreal Gene Therapy with ADVM-022 for Neovascular AMD (nAMD): The Role of Neutralizing Antibodies

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- On behalf of the OPTIC investigators -

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## Disclosures

- Adverum Biotechnologies Consultant/Advisor, Equity
- Regenxbio Consultant/Advisor, Equity
- Genentech/Roche Consultant/Advisor
- Fortress Bio Consultant/Advisor, Equity
- Optos Consultant/Advisor, Research grant support
- Novartis Consultant/Advisor
- Intellectual Property related to gene and cellular therapy assigned to Weill Cornell/Cornell University

## Wet AMD: Leading Cause of Blindness in Patients Over 65

### **20** M people living with wet AMD Worldwide<sup>1,2</sup>



### Real World Outcomes with Current Standard of Care are Suboptimal

Frequent anti-VEGF injections required leading to poor adherence

Lifetime need for frequent injections overburdens patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers

\$139 billion in U.S. annual economic burden of vision loss, including falls, cognitive decline and depression\*

**1.5** people impacted by wet AMD in the U.S.<sup>1,2</sup>

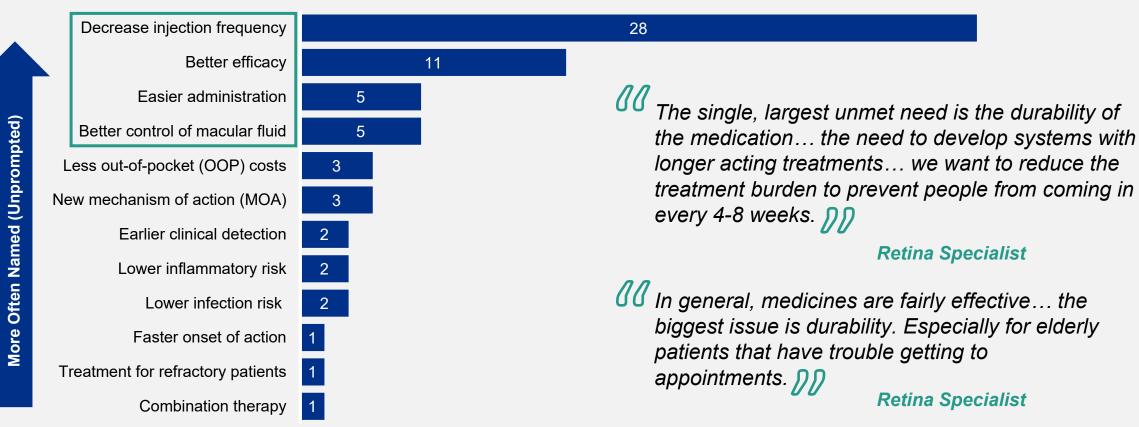
<sup>1</sup>Bright Focus Foundation. Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Facts & Figures. [Internet; cited October 2021]. Available from:

https://www.brightfocus.org/macular/article/age-related-macular-facts-figures. 2Wong WL, et al. Global prevalence of age-related macular degeneration and disease

burden projection for 2020 and 2040: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet Glob Health. 2014;2:106–16.

#### Largest Unmet Needs for Wet AMD Patients as Reported by Retina Specialists





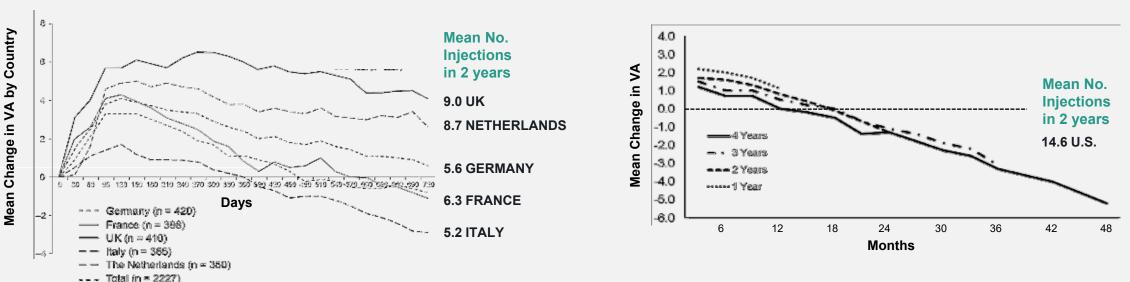
### **Real-World Evidence Shows Reduction in Vision Over Time**

- Reduction in vision caused by poor adherence to frequent • injection regime due to:
  - Insufficient treatment
  - Persistence of macular fluid between injections
- Bolus anti-VEGF injections result in fluctuations in macular fluid shown to have negative impact on vision over time

EUROPE 2015 2-Year Study<sup>1</sup> (N = 2,227 patients)

- Gene therapy administered as single, in-office IVT injection has potential to deliver:
  - Long-term efficacy
  - Reduced patient burden
  - Stabilization of macular fluid/reduced fluctuations
  - Potential to maintain or improve vision and anatomical outcomes in previously treated patients

U.S. 2020 1-4 Year Study<sup>2</sup> (N = 79,885 patients)



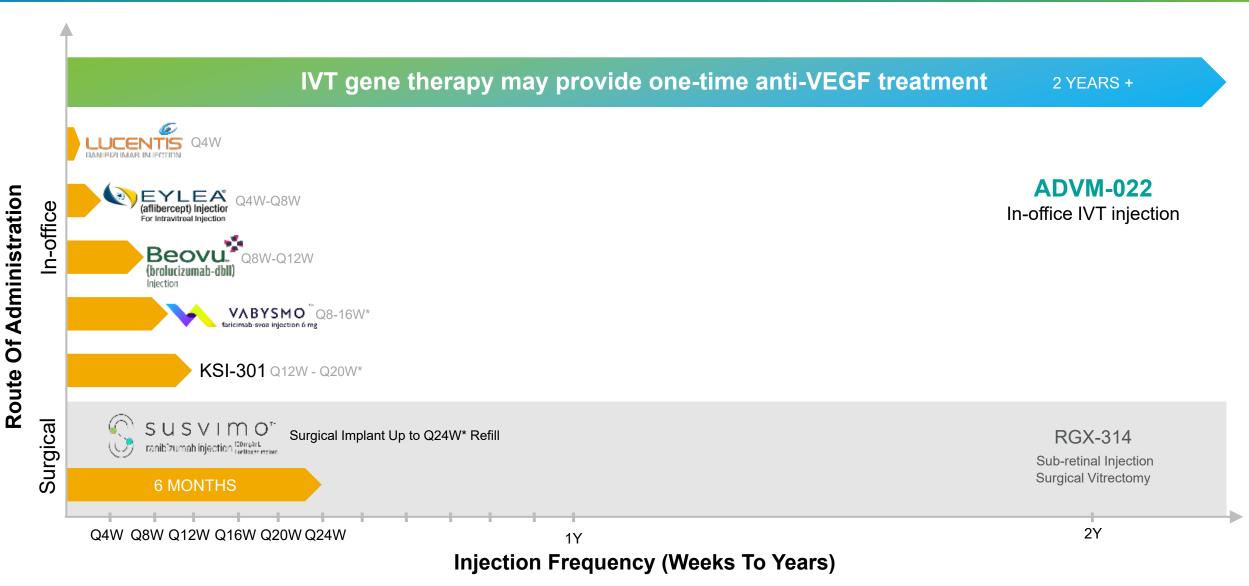
## - - Total in = 2227)

5

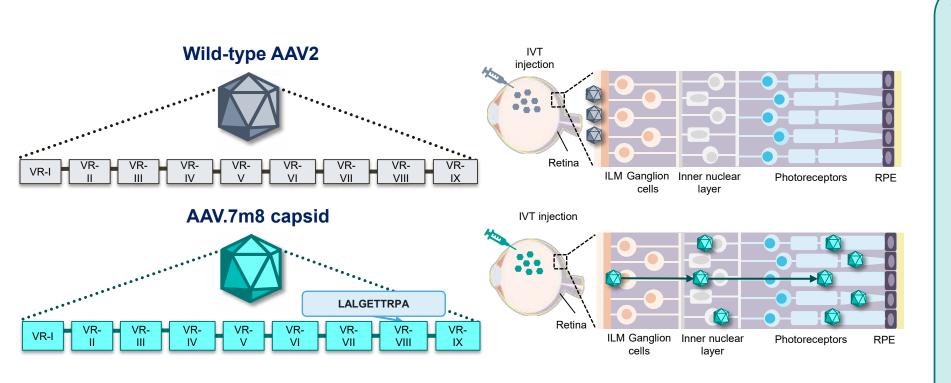
#### <sup>1</sup>The AURA Study, adapted from Holz FG et al. Br J Ophthalmol 2015; 99 (2): 220–226;

<sup>2</sup>Adapted from SIERRA-AMD, Khanani A, et al. Ophthal. Retina 2020 Feb; 4(2):122-123. EMR= Electronic Medical Records

### Retina Landscape is Evolving - Gene Therapy Will Bring Significant Innovation as a Transformative Medicine

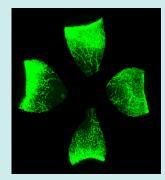


## **Proprietary AAV.7m8 Capsid Facilitates Efficient Retinal Transduction Enabling IVT Gene Therapy**<sup>1-4</sup>



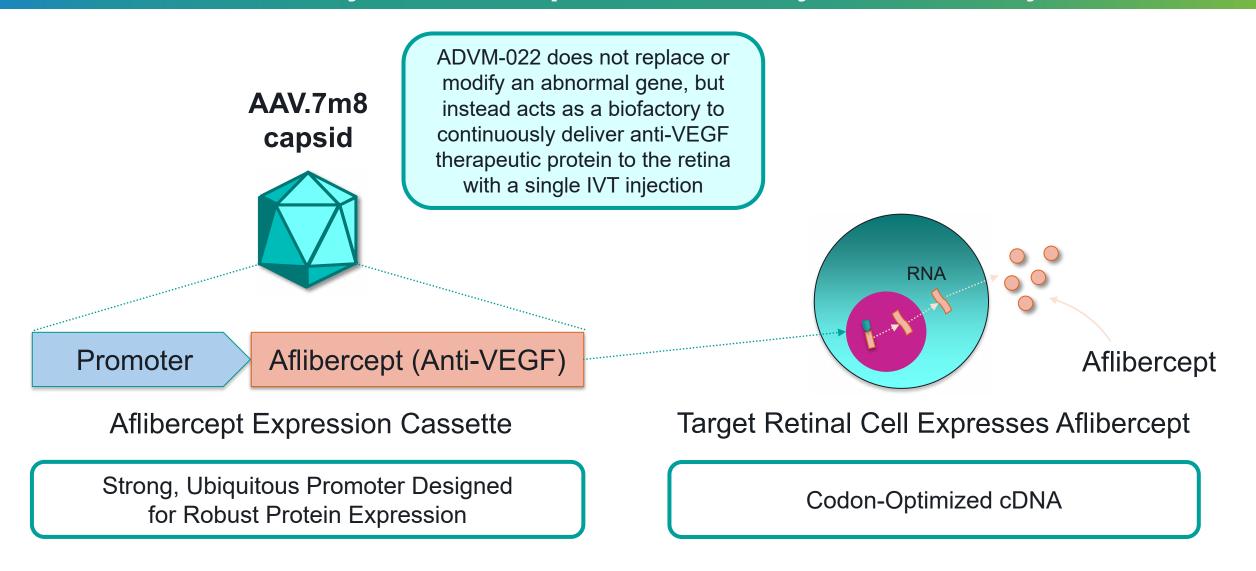
- AAV, adeno-associated virus; ILM, inner limiting membrane; IVT, intravitreal; RPE, retinal pigment epithelium; VR, variable region.
- 1. Grishanin, R et al. *Mol Ther.* 2019;27:118–129; 2. Bennett A, et al. *J Struct Biol.* 2020;209(2):107433; 3. Dalkara D, et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2013;5(189):189ra76; 4. Khabou H, et al. *Biotechnol Bioeng.* 2016;113(12):2712-2724.

- Advanced AAV.7m8 vector developed using directed evolution to:<sup>1</sup>
  - Enable efficient intravitreal delivery
  - Increase transduction of retinal cells
  - Increase protein expression



Green fluorescent protein expression in non-human primate retina

### ADVM-022 Is a Novel Biofactory Approach to Gene Therapy Designed for Continuous Delivery of Aflibercept (Anti-VEGF) by Intravitreal Injection



cDNA, complementary deoxyribonucleic acid; IVT, intravitreal; RNA, ribonucleic acid; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor. Grishanin R, et al. *Mol Ther*. 2019;27:118-129.

# **OPTIC Study: Designed to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of ADVM-022 for nAMD**

<ul><li>Status</li><li>4 cohorts fully enrolled</li><li>Follow-up to 104 weeks</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Primary Objective</li> <li>Assess the safety and tolerability of a single IVT injection of ADVM-022</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Secondary Objective</li> <li>Evaluate vision maintenance (BCVA)</li> <li>Evaluate anatomy (SD-OCT)</li> <li>Assess the need for supplemental therapy</li> </ul>
Day –15 to –7: aflibercept	24-Week Safety and Efficacy Assessment	52-Week Safety and Efficacy Assessment
Baseline Assessment Tre	atment Evaluation	Iluation Treatment Evaluation Study
Weeks: 4 8	12 16 20 24	52 104

#### Prophylaxctic Steroid Regimen

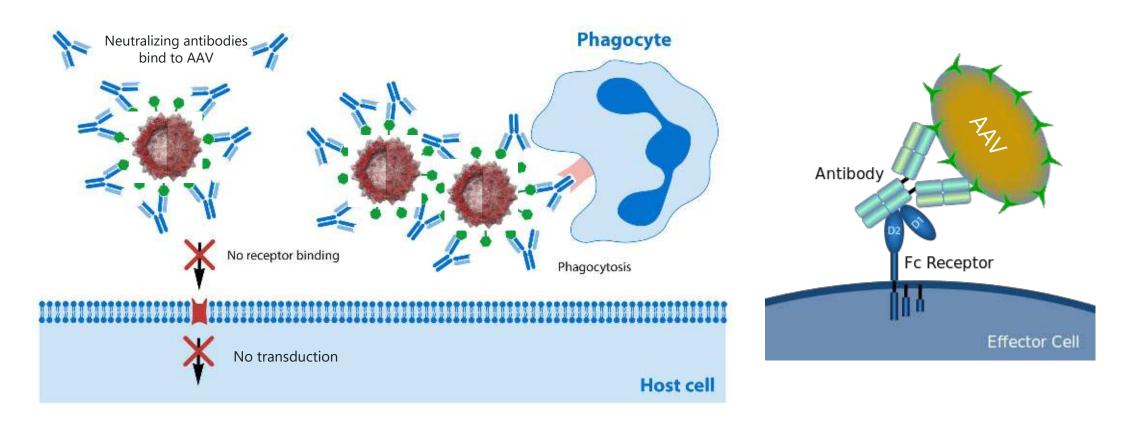
<b>Cohort 1</b> (n=6) 6 x 10 <sup>11</sup> high dose	Oral*, 13d	
<b>Cohort 2</b> (n=6) 2 x 10 <sup>11</sup> low dose	Oral*, 13d	
<b>Cohort 3</b> (n=9) 2 x 10 <sup>11</sup> low dose	Eye Drops**, 6wks	
<b>Cohort 4</b> (n=9) 6 x 10 <sup>11</sup> high dose	Eye Drops**, 6wks	

#### NAbs Analysis

- An assay was used to detect anti-AAV antibodies with the capacity to neutralize AAV.7m8 in human serum
- NAbs exclusion criteria were a titer level of ≥1:5 for cohort 1 and ≥1:125 for cohorts 2-4
- The impact of baseline NAbs on treatment burden, aflibercept protein expression levels, and safety outcomes was evaluated

\*Subjects received prophylaxis of 60 mg oral prednisone for 6 days starting at Day –3 followed by 7-day taper. \*\*Subjects received prophylaxis of QID difluprednate eye drops for 3 weeks starting at Day 1 followed by a 3-week taper. AAV, adeno-associated virus; AMD, age-related macular degeneration; BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; CST, central subfield thickness; ETDRS, Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; IVT, intravitreal therapy; NAb, neutralizing antibody; QID, four times daily; SD-OCT, spectral domain optical coherence tomography; NCT03748784.

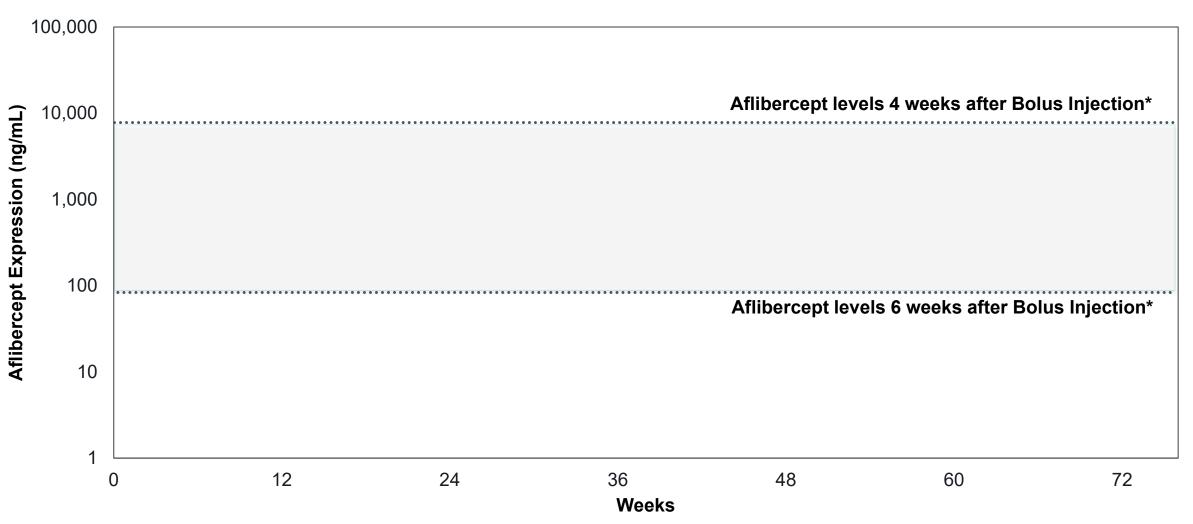
## **Neutralizing Antibodies May Reduce AAV-driven Gene Therapy Transduction**



• The presence of NAbs can trigger the innate and adaptive immune system leading to AAV clearance and a reduction in transduction efficiency<sup>1,2</sup>

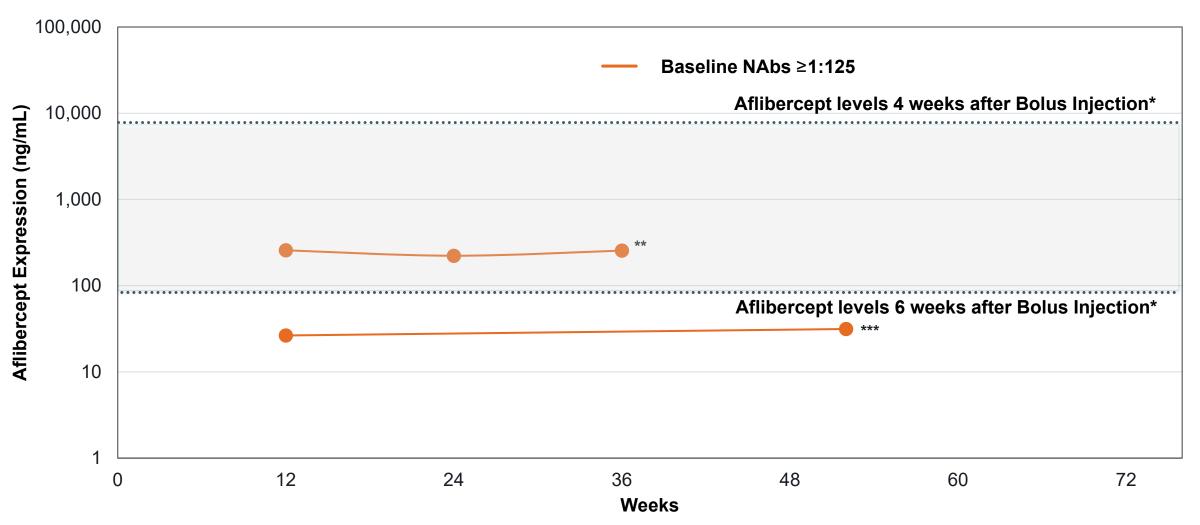
AAV, adeno-associated virus; NAb, neutralizing antibody. 1. Verdera HC, et al. *Mol Ther.* 2020;28(3):723-746; 2. Fitzpatrick Z, et al. *Mol Ther Methods Clin Dev.* 2018;9:119-129.

## More Robust Aflibercept Protein Expression in Participants With Baseline NAb titers <1:125 at Among Participants Treated with ADVM-022 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye



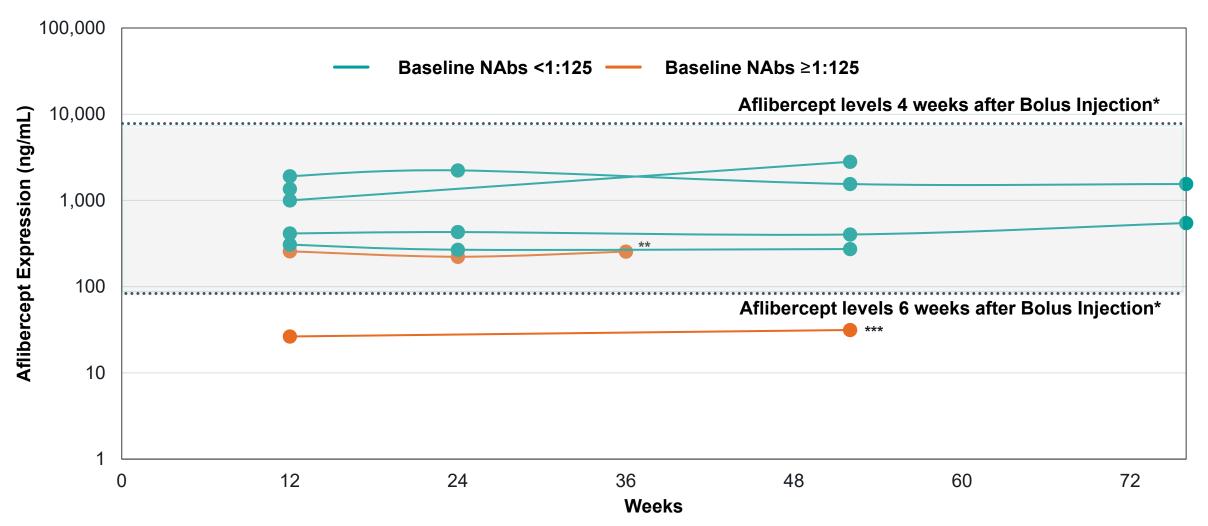
\*Modeled based on Do DV, et al. *Retina.* 2020;40(4):643-647; \*\* Patient rescued at Week 36; \*\*\* Patient rescued at Week 24. Sample collected 28 weeks after supplemental injection. Protocol amendment for aqueous sample collection for patients who consented. No samples available from Cohort 2. To isolate the effect of ADVM-022, samples that were collected within 2 months of supplemental aflibercept are not shown.

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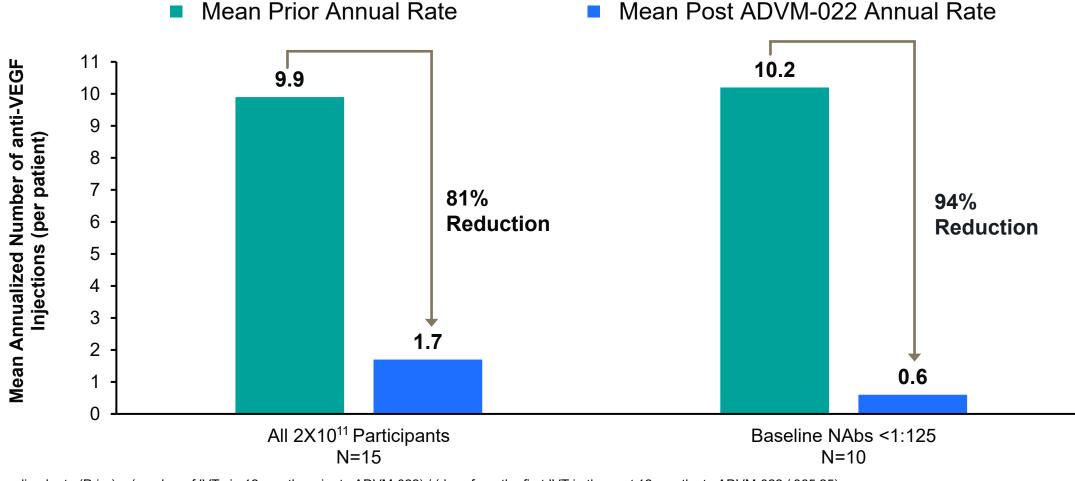
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# 94% Reduction in Annualized Anti-VEGF Injections in Participants With Baseline NAbs <1:125

2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye All Participants vs Participants with Baseline NAbs <1:125



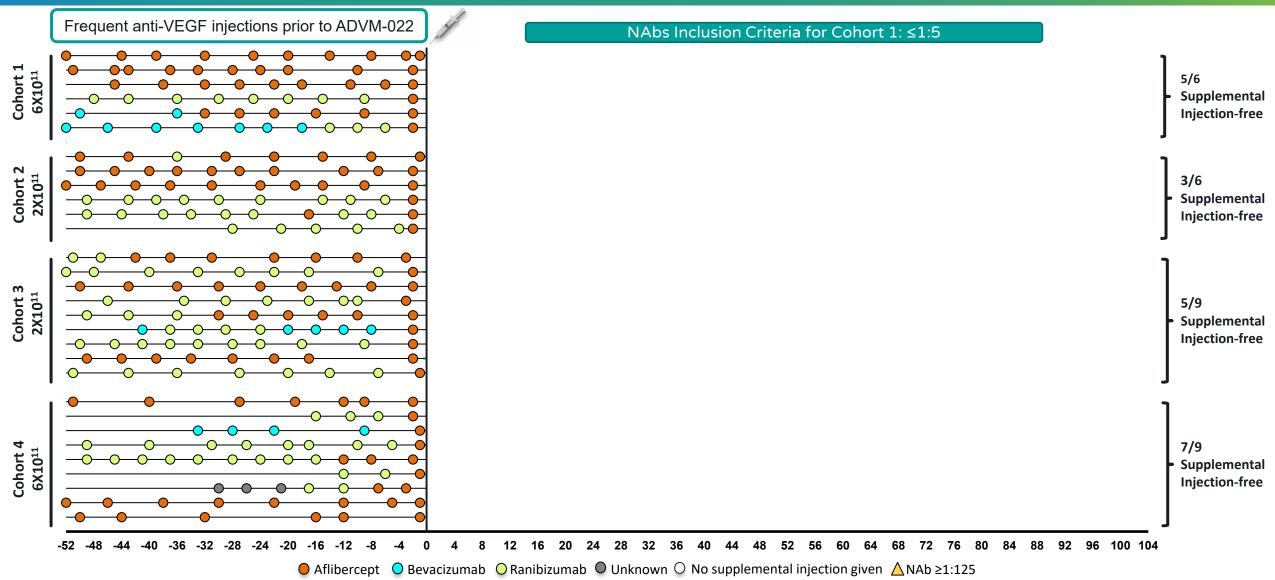
Annualized rate (Prior) = (number of IVTs in 12 months prior to ADVM-022) / (days from the first IVT in the past 12 months to ADVM-022 / 365.25).

Annualized rate (Post) = (numbers of aflibercept IVTs since ADVM-022) / (days from ADVM-022 to the last study follow-up / 365.25).

A 97% reduction in annualized anti-VEGF Injections was observed in the  $6x10^{11}$  group.

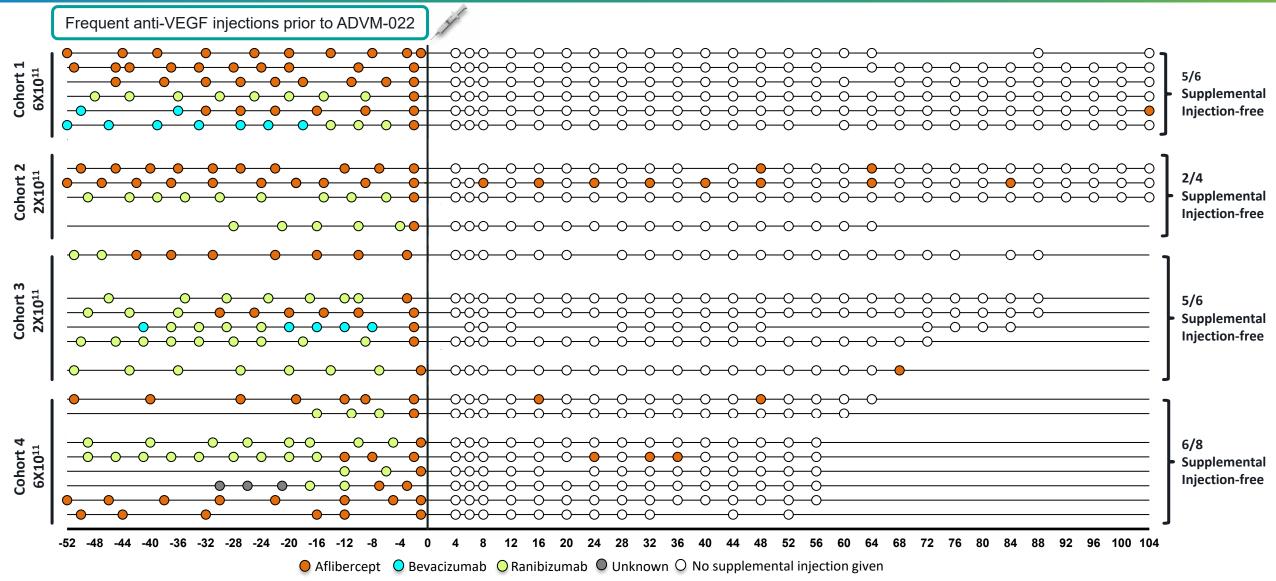
NAb, neutralizing antibody; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

## **Reduction in Requirement for Supplemental Anti-VEGF Injections Following a Single IVT Injection of ADVM-022 in All Participants**



Six patients were diagnosed <1 year prior to ADVM-022 injection: one each in Cohorts 1, 2 and 3, three in Cohort 4. Cohort 2, Patient 1 death due to cardiopulmonary arrest due to hypoxia; Cohort 2, Patient 6 death due to lung malignancy; Incomplete prior data for Cohort 4, Patient 2. Cohort 4, Patient 4 had a port delivery system (PDS) implanted 3 years prior to Screening (explanted 1.5 years later); Cohort 4, Patient 5 received in a clinical trial not yet unmasked (NCT03790852).); IVT, intravitreal injection; NAb, neutralizing antibody.

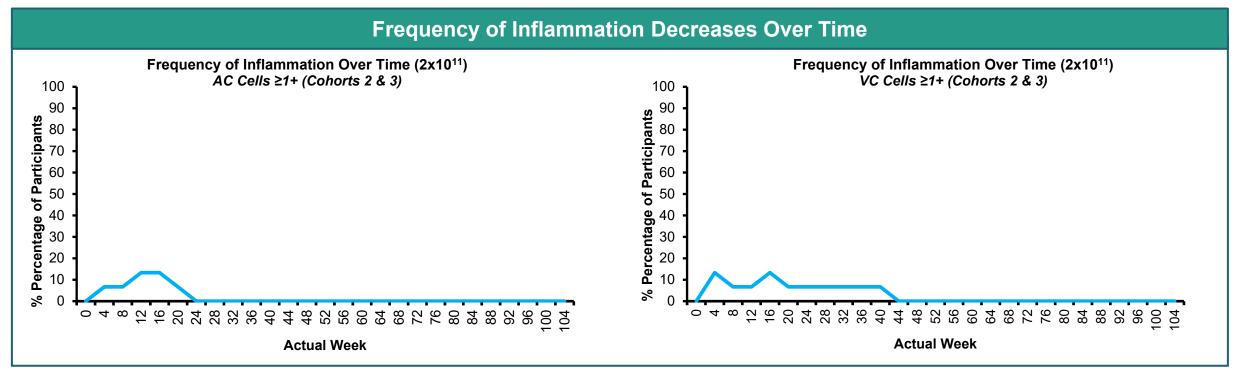
# Potential Impact of Baseline NAbs on Supplemental Aflibercept Injections: Exclude ≥ 1:125 NAbs



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## **Safety Summary**

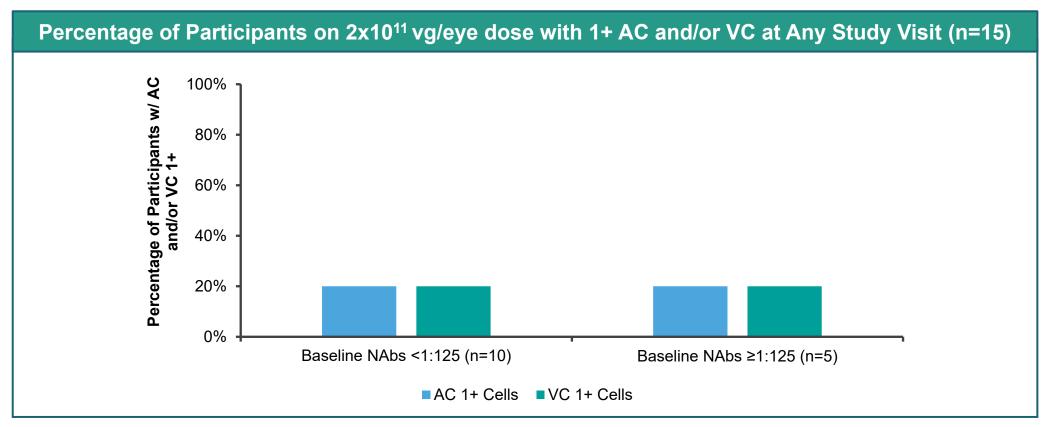
- ADVM-022 related events were mild (83%) or moderate (17%) across all cohorts
- One SAE of uveitis occurred in cohort 1 (6x10<sup>11</sup> dose) which was responsive to topical corticosteroids
- All inflammation observed at the 2x10<sup>11</sup> dose was responsive to topical corticosteroids
  - At most recent follow-up, no patients in the 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye cohorts required any topical corticosteroids to treat inflammation
- No correlation between NAb titer and inflammation was observed
- ADVM-022 was well tolerated in the nAMD population studied in OPTIC



AC, aqueous cells; NAb, neutralizing antibody; nAMD, neovascular age-related macular degeneration; SAE, serious adverse event; VC, vitreous cells.

# No Correlation Was Observed Between Baseline NAbs and AC and/or VC Inflammation

- No correlation between baseline NAbs and safety events was observed. Additionally, baseline NAbs were not associated with occurrence or duration of inflammation.
- AC inflammation does not seem to correlate with NAbs at screening or when there is a fluctuation on-study
- VC inflammation does not seem to correlate with NAbs at screening or when there is a fluctuation on-study
  - A patient in Cohort 2 with VC 3+ at the beginning of the study did not take oral prednisone



AC, aqueous cells; NAb, neutralizing antibody; VC, vitreous cells.

## Conclusions

- The mean annualized anti-VEGF injection rate was reduced by 81% in all participants receiving 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye ADVM-022 and 94% in participants with NAbs titers <1:125
- Participants with baseline NAbs to AAV.7m8 <1:125 were more likely to demonstrate robust aflibercept protein expression and less likely to require supplemental anti-VEGF injections
- Both doses of ADVM-022 were well tolerated, with the 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye dose requiring less topical corticosteroid therapy to alleviate inflammation
  - At the most recent follow-up, no participants in the 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye dose group required any topical corticosteroids to treat inflammation
- Baseline NAbs were not associated with occurrence or duration of inflammation or other safety events
- A Phase 2 study in nAMD investigating the 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg/eye dose and a lower 6x10<sup>10</sup> vg/eye dose of ADVM-022 as well as new enhanced prophylactic steroid regimens, which are expected to include local steroids and a combination of local and systemic steroids, is planned
  - The first patient dosed in the Phase 2 study is expected in the third quarter of 2022

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