

**ANNEX I**  
**SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

## 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in pre-filled syringe.

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 mL solution for injection contains 40 mg aflibercept\*.

One pre-filled syringe contains an extractable volume of at least 0.09 mL, equivalent to at least 3.6 mg aflibercept. This provides a usable amount to deliver a single dose of 0.05 mL containing 2 mg aflibercept to adult patients or a single dose of 0.01 mL containing 0.4 mg aflibercept to preterm infants.

\*Fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) receptors 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1 and produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection (injection)

The solution is a clear, colourless to pale yellow and iso-osmotic solution.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Eylea is indicated for adults for the treatment of

- neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO or central RVO) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DME) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV) (see section 5.1).

EYLEA is indicated in preterm infants for the treatment of

- retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) with zone I (stage 1+, 2+, 3 or 3+), zone II (stage 2+ or 3+) or AP-ROP (aggressive posterior ROP) disease.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Eylea is for intravitreal injection only.

Eylea must only be administered by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections.

#### Posology

##### *wet AMD*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept, equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Eylea treatment is initiated with one injection per month for three consecutive doses. The treatment interval is then extended to two months.

Based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at two months or further extended using a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where injection intervals are increased in 2- or 4-weekly increments to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes.

If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly.

There is no requirement for monitoring between injections. Based on the physician's judgement the schedule of monitoring visits may be more frequent than the injection visits.

Treatment intervals greater than four months or shorter than 4 weeks between injections have not been studied (see section 5.1).

#### *Macular oedema secondary to RVO (branch RVO or central RVO)*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL.

After the initial injection, treatment is given monthly. The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

If visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment, Eylea should be discontinued.

Monthly treatment continues until maximum visual acuity is achieved and/or there are no signs of disease activity. Three or more consecutive, monthly injections may be needed.

Treatment may then be continued with a treat-and-extend regimen with gradually increased treatment intervals to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes, however there are insufficient data to conclude on the length of these intervals. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly.

The monitoring and treatment schedule should be determined by the treating physician based on the individual patient's response.

Monitoring for disease activity may include clinical examination, functional testing or imaging techniques (e.g. optical coherence tomography or fluorescein angiography).

#### *Diabetic macular oedema*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Eylea treatment is initiated with one injection per month for five consecutive doses, followed by one injection every two months.

Based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at 2 months or individualized, such as with a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where the treatment intervals are usually increased by 2-week increments to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes. There are limited data for treatment intervals longer than 4 months. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly.

Treatment intervals shorter than 4 weeks have not been studied (see section 5.1).

The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician.

If visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment, Eylea should be discontinued.

### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

The recommended dose for Eylea is a single intravitreal injection of 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Additional doses may be administered if visual and/or anatomic outcomes indicate that the disease persists. Recurrences should be treated as a new manifestation of the disease.

The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician.

The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

### *Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)*

The recommended dose for Eylea is a single intravitreal injection of 0.4 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.01 mL.

Treatment of ROP is initiated with a single injection per eye and may be given bilaterally on the same day. In total, up to 2 injections per eye may be administered within 6 months of treatment initiation if there are signs of disease activity. The treatment interval between the 2 doses injected into the same eye should be at least 4 weeks.

### Special populations

#### *Hepatic and/or renal impairment*

No specific studies in patients with hepatic and/or renal impairment have been conducted with Eylea.

Available data do not suggest a need for a dose adjustment with Eylea in these patients (see section 5.2).

#### *Elderly population*

No special considerations are needed. There is limited experience in patients older than 75 years with DME.

#### *Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea in children and adolescents below 18 years of age for indications other than ROP have not been established (see section 4.4). There is no relevant use of Eylea in the paediatric population for the indications of wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV.

### Method of administration

Intravitreal injections must be carried out according to medical standards and applicable guidelines by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections. In general, adequate anaesthesia and asepsis, including topical broad spectrum microbicide (e.g. povidone iodine applied to the periocular skin, eyelid and ocular surface), have to be ensured. Surgical hand disinfection, sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent) are recommended.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure. Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, sterile equipment for paracentesis should be available.

Following intravitreal injection, adult patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis (e.g. eye pain, redness of the eye, photophobia, blurring of vision) without delay. Patients with ROP should be observed by healthcare professionals for any signs suggestive of endophthalmitis (e.g. redness/irritation of the eye, ocular discharge, lid swelling, photophobia). Parents and caregivers should also be instructed to observe and report any signs suggestive of endophthalmitis without delay.

Each pre-filled syringe should only be used for the treatment of a single eye. Extraction of multiple doses from a pre-filled syringe may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

#### *Adults*

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL solution for injection). The extractable volume of the syringe is the amount that can be expelled from the syringe and is not to be used in total. For the Eylea pre-filled syringe, the extractable volume is at least 0.09 mL. **The excess volume must be expelled before injecting the recommended dose** (see section 6.6).

Injecting the entire volume of the pre-filled syringe could result in overdose. To expel the air bubbles along with excess medicinal product, slowly depress the plunger to **align the base of the plunger dome (not the tip of the dome) with the dosing line on the syringe** (equivalent to 0.05 mL i.e. 2 mg aflibercept) (see sections 4.9 and 6.6).

The injection needle should be inserted 3.5-4.0 mm posterior to the limbus into the vitreous cavity, avoiding the horizontal meridian and aiming towards the centre of the globe. The injection volume of 0.05 mL is then delivered; a different scleral site should be used for subsequent injections.

After injection any unused product must be discarded.

#### *Paediatric population*

For treatment of preterm infants, the PICLEO paediatric dosing device in combination with the pre-filled syringe must be used for administration of a single dose of 0.4 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.01 mL solution for injection) (see section 6.6).

The injection needle should be inserted into the eye 1.0 to 2.0 mm from the limbus with the needle pointing towards the optic nerve.

After injection any unused product must be discarded.

For handling of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance aflibercept or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.  
Active or suspected ocular or periocular infection.  
Active severe intraocular inflammation.

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

#### Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

#### Intravitreal injection-related reactions

Intravitreal injections, including those with Eylea, have been associated with endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, retinal tear and iatrogenic traumatic cataract (see section 4.8). Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering Eylea. In addition, patients should be monitored during the week following the injection to permit early treatment if an infection occurs.

Adult patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or any of the above mentioned events without delay.

Patients with ROP should be observed by healthcare professionals for any signs suggestive of endophthalmitis (e.g. redness/irritation of the eye, ocular discharge, lid swelling, photophobia).

Parents and caregivers should also be instructed to observe and report any signs suggestive of endophthalmitis without delay.

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL) for adult patients. The excess volume must be expelled prior to administration (see sections 4.2 and 6.6).

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 0.4 mg (equivalent to 0.01 mL) for preterm infants (see section 6.6). The pre-filled syringe must be used in combination with the PICLEO paediatric dosing device to avoid a higher than recommended volume that could result in increased intraocular pressure (see sections 4.9 and 6.6).

Increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 60 minutes of intravitreal injection, including those with Eylea (see section 4.8). Special precaution is needed in patients with poorly controlled glaucoma (do not inject Eylea while the intraocular pressure is  $\geq 30$  mmHg). In all cases, both the intraocular pressure and the perfusion of the optic nerve head must therefore be monitored and managed appropriately.

#### Immunogenicity

As this is a therapeutic protein, there is a potential for immunogenicity with Eylea (see section 4.8). Patients should be instructed to report any signs or symptoms of intraocular inflammation, e.g. pain, photophobia, or redness, which may be a clinical sign attributable to hypersensitivity.

#### Systemic effects

Systemic adverse events including non-ocular haemorrhages and arterial thromboembolic events have been reported following intravitreal injection of VEGF inhibitors and there is a theoretical risk that these may relate to VEGF inhibition. There are limited data on safety in the treatment of patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME or myopic CNV with a history of stroke or transient ischaemic attacks or myocardial infarction within the last 6 months. Caution should be exercised when treating such patients.

#### Other

As with other intravitreal anti-VEGF treatments for AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV the following also applies:

- The safety and efficacy of Eylea therapy administered to both eyes concurrently have not been systematically studied (see section 5.1). If bilateral treatment is performed at the same time this could lead to an increased systemic exposure, which could increase the risk of systemic adverse events.
- Concomitant use of other anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor)  
There is no data available on the concomitant use of Eylea with other anti-VEGF medicinal products (systemic or ocular).
- Risk factors associated with the development of a retinal pigment epithelial tear after anti-VEGF therapy for wet AMD, include a large and/or high pigment epithelial retinal detachment. When initiating Eylea therapy, caution should be used in patients with these risk factors for retinal pigment epithelial tears.
- Treatment should be withheld in patients with rhegmatogenous retinal detachment or stage 3 or 4 macular holes.
- In the event of a retinal break the dose should be withheld and treatment should not be resumed until the break is adequately repaired.
- The dose should be withheld and treatment should not be resumed earlier than the next scheduled treatment in the event of:
  - a decrease in best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) of  $\geq 30$  letters compared with the last assessment of visual acuity;
  - a subretinal haemorrhage involving the centre of the fovea, or, if the size of the haemorrhage is  $\geq 50\%$ , of the total lesion area.

- The dose should be withheld within the previous or next 28 days in the event of a performed or planned intraocular surgery.
- Eylea should not be used in pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus (see section 4.6).
- Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of aflibercept (see section 4.6).
- There is limited experience with treatment of patients with ischaemic CRVO and BRVO. In patients presenting with clinical signs of irreversible ischaemic visual function loss, the treatment is not recommended.

#### Paediatric population

The warnings and precautions for adults also apply to preterm infants with ROP. The long-term safety profile in preterm infants has not been established.

#### Populations with limited data

There is only limited experience in the treatment of subjects with DME due to type I diabetes or in diabetic patients with an HbA1c over 12% or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Eylea has not been studied in patients with active systemic infections or in patients with concurrent eye conditions such as retinal detachment or macular hole. There is also no experience of treatment with Eylea in diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension. This lack of information should be considered by the physician when treating such patients.

In myopic CNV there is no experience with Eylea in the treatment of non-Asian patients, patients who have previously undergone treatment for myopic CNV, and patients with extrafoveal lesions.

#### Information about excipients

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

No interaction studies have been performed.

Adjunctive use of verteporfin photodynamic therapy (PDT) and Eylea has not been studied, therefore, a safety profile is not established.

#### Paediatric population

No interaction studies have been performed.

### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

#### Women of childbearing potential

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of aflibercept (see section 4.4).

#### Pregnancy

There are no data on the use of aflibercept in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown embryo-foetal toxicity (see section 5.3).

Although the systemic exposure after ocular administration is very low, Eylea should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus.

### Breast-feeding

Based on very limited human data, aflibercept may be excreted in human milk at low levels. Aflibercept is a large protein molecule and the amount of medication absorbed by the infant is expected to be minimal. The effects of aflibercept on a breast-fed newborn/infant are unknown.

As a precautionary measure, breast-feeding is not recommended during the use of Eylea.

### Fertility

Results from animal studies with high systemic exposure indicate that aflibercept can impair male and female fertility (see section 5.3). Such effects are not expected after ocular administration with very low systemic exposure.

## **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Injection with Eylea has a minor influence on the ability to drive and use machines due to possible temporary visual disturbances associated either with the injection or the eye examination. Patients should not drive or use machines until their visual function has recovered sufficiently.

## **4.8 Undesirable effects**

### Summary of the safety profile

A total of 3,102 patients constituted the safety population in the eight phase III studies. Among those, 2,501 patients were treated with the recommended dose of 2 mg.

Serious ocular adverse reactions in the study eye related to the injection procedure have occurred in less than 1 in 1,900 intravitreal injections with Eylea and included blindness, endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, cataract traumatic, cataract, vitreous haemorrhage, vitreous detachment, and intraocular pressure increased (see section 4.4).

The most frequently observed adverse reactions (in at least 5% of patients treated with Eylea) were conjunctival haemorrhage (25%), retinal haemorrhage (11%), visual acuity reduced (11%), eye pain (10%), cataract (8%), intraocular pressure increased (8%), vitreous detachment (7%), and vitreous floaters (7%).

### Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The safety data described below include all adverse reactions from the eight phase III studies in the indications wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV with a reasonable possibility of causality to the injection procedure or medicinal product.

The adverse reactions are listed by system organ class and frequency using the following convention:

Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ )

Within each frequency grouping, adverse drug reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.



**Table 1:** All treatment-emergent adverse drug reactions reported in patients in phase III studies (pooled data of the phase III studies for the indications wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV) or during post-marketing surveillance

System Organ Class	Very common	Common	Uncommon	Rare
Immune system disorders			Hypersensitivity***	
Eye disorders	Visual acuity reduced, Retinal haemorrhage, Conjunctival haemorrhage, Eye pain	Retinal pigment epithelial tear*, Detachment of the retinal pigment epithelium, Retinal degeneration, Vitreous haemorrhage, Cataract, Cataract cortical, Cataract nuclear, Cataract subcapsular, Corneal erosion, Corneal abrasion, Intraocular pressure increased, Vision blurred, Vitreous floaters, Vitreous detachment, Injection site pain, Foreign body sensation in eyes, Lacrimation increased, Eyelid oedema, Injection site haemorrhage, Punctate keratitis, Conjunctival hyperaemia, Ocular hyperaemia	Endophthalmitis**, Retinal detachment, Retinal tear, Iritis, Uveitis, Iridocyclitis, Lenticular opacities, Corneal epithelium defect, Injection site irritation, Abnormal sensation in eye, Eyelid irritation, Anterior chamber flare, Corneal oedema	Blindness, Cataract traumatic, Vitreitis, Hypopyon

\* Conditions known to be associated with wet AMD. Observed in the wet AMD studies only.

\*\* Culture positive and culture negative endophthalmitis

\*\*\* During the post-marketing period, reports of hypersensitivity included rash, pruritus, urticaria, and isolated cases of severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions.

#### *Description of selected adverse reactions*

In the wet AMD phase III studies, there was an increased incidence of conjunctival haemorrhage in patients receiving anti-thrombotic agents. This increased incidence was comparable between patients treated with ranibizumab and Eylea.

Arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) are adverse events potentially related to systemic VEGF inhibition. There is a theoretical risk of arterial thromboembolic events, including stroke and myocardial infarction, following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors.

A low incidence rate of arterial thromboembolic events was observed in the Eylea clinical trials in patients with AMD, DME, RVO, myopic CNV and ROP. Across indications no notable difference between the groups treated with aflibercept and the respective comparator groups were observed.

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity with Eylea.

### Paediatric population

The safety of Eylea for the treatment of ROP was evaluated in a 6-month phase III study, which included 75 preterm infants treated with aflibercept 0.4 mg at baseline. The long-term safety profile in preterm infants has not been established.

Adverse reactions reported in more than one patient treated with aflibercept 0.4 mg were retinal detachment, retinal haemorrhage, conjunctival haemorrhage, injection site haemorrhage, intraocular pressure increased and eyelid oedema.

Adverse reactions established for adult indications are considered applicable to preterm infants with ROP, though not all were observed in the phase III study.

### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#).

## **4.9 Overdose**

In clinical trials, doses of up to 4 mg in monthly intervals have been used and isolated cases of overdoses with 8 mg occurred.

Overdosing with increased injection volume may increase intraocular pressure. Therefore, in case of overdose, intraocular pressure should be monitored and if deemed necessary by the treating physician, adequate treatment should be initiated (see section 6.6).

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Ophthalmologicals / Antineovascularisation agents  
ATC code: S01LA05

Aflibercept is a recombinant fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF receptor 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1.

Aflibercept is produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

Aflibercept acts as a soluble decoy receptor that binds VEGF-A and PlGF with higher affinity than their natural receptors, and thereby can inhibit the binding and activation of these cognate VEGF receptors.

### Mechanism of action

Vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) and placental growth factor (PlGF) are members of the VEGF family of angiogenic factors that can act as potent mitogenic, chemotactic, and vascular permeability factors for endothelial cells. VEGF acts via two receptor tyrosine kinases; VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2, present on the surface of endothelial cells. PlGF binds only to VEGFR-1, which is also present on the surface of leucocytes. Excessive activation of these receptors by VEGF-A can result in pathological neovascularisation and excessive vascular permeability. PlGF can synergize with VEGF-A in these processes, and is also known to promote leucocyte infiltration and vascular inflammation.

## Pharmacodynamic effects

### *wet AMD*

Wet AMD is characterised by pathological choroidal neovascularisation (CNV). Leakage of blood and fluid from CNV may cause retinal thickening or oedema and/or sub-/intra-retinal haemorrhage, resulting in loss of visual acuity.

In patients treated with Eylea (one injection per month for three consecutive months, followed by one injection every 2 months), central retinal thickness [CRT] decreased soon after treatment initiation, and the mean CNV lesion size was reduced, consistent with the results seen with ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month.

In the VIEW1 study there were mean decreases in CRT on optical coherence tomography (OCT) (-130 and -129 microns at week 52 for the Eylea 2 mg every two months and ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month study groups, respectively). Also at the 52 week time point, in the VIEW2 study there were mean decreases in CRT on OCT (-149 and -139 microns for the Eylea 2 mg every two months and ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month study groups, respectively). The reduction of CNV size and reduction in CRT were generally maintained in the second year of the studies.

The ALTAIR study was conducted in Japanese patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, showing similar outcomes to the VIEW studies using 3 initial monthly Eylea 2 mg injections, followed by one injection after a further 2 months, and then continued with a treat-and-extend regimen with variable treatment intervals (2- week or 4- week adjustments) up to a maximum 16 week interval according to pre-specified criteria. At week 52, there were mean decreases in central retinal thickness (CRT) on OCT of -134.4 and -126.1 microns for the 2-week adjustment group and the 4-week adjustment group, respectively. The proportion of patients without fluid on OCT at week 52 was 68.3% and 69.1% in the 2- and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively. The reduction in CRT was generally maintained in both treatment arms in the second year of the ALTAIR study.

The ARIES study was designed to explore the non-inferiority of an Eylea 2 mg treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated immediately after administration of 3 initial monthly injections and one additional injection after 2 months vs. a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after one year of treatment. For patients requiring a more frequent than Q8 dosing at least once over the course of the study, CRT remained higher, but the mean decrease in CRT from baseline to week 104 was -160.4 microns, similar to the patients treated at Q8 or less frequent intervals.

### *Macular oedema secondary to CRVO and BRVO*

In CRVO and BRVO, retinal ischaemia occurs and signals the release of VEGF which in turn destabilises the tight junctions, and promotes endothelial cell proliferation. Up-regulation of VEGF is associated with the breakdown of the blood retina barrier, increased vascular permeability, retinal oedema, and neovascularisation complications.

In patients treated with 6 consecutive monthly injections of Eylea 2 mg, there was a consistent, rapid and robust morphologic response (as measured by improvements in mean CRT) observed. At week 24, the reduction in CRT was statistically superior versus control in all three studies (COPERNICUS in CRVO: -457 vs. -145 microns; GALILEO in CRVO: -449 vs. -169 microns; VIBRANT in BRVO: -280 vs. -128 microns). This decrease from baseline in CRT was maintained to the end of each study, week 100 in COPERNICUS, week 76 in GALILEO, and week 52 in VIBRANT.

### *Diabetic macular oedema*

Diabetic macular oedema is a consequence of diabetic retinopathy and is characterised by increased vasopermeability and damage to the retinal capillaries which may result in loss of visual acuity.

In patients treated with Eylea, the majority of whom were classified as having Type II diabetes, a rapid and robust response in morphology (CRT, DRSS level) was observed.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, a statistically significant greater mean decrease in CRT from baseline to week 52 was observed in patients treated with Eylea than with the laser control, -192.4 and -183.1 microns for the 2Q8 Eylea groups and -66.2 and -73.3 microns for the control groups, respectively. At week 100 the decrease was maintained with -195.8 and -191.1 microns for the 2Q8 Eylea groups and -85.7 and -83.9 microns for the control groups, in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, respectively.

A  $\geq 2$  step improvement in DRSS was assessed in a pre-specified manner in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. The DRSS score was gradable in 73.7% of the patients in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and 98.3% of the patients in VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. At week 52, 27.7% and 29.1% of the Eylea 2Q8 groups, and 7.5% and 14.3% of the control groups experienced a  $\geq 2$  step improvement in the DRSS. At week 100, the respective percentages were 32.6% and 37.1% of the Eylea 2Q8 groups and 8.2% and 15.6% of the control groups.

The VIOLET study compared three different dosing regimens of Eylea 2 mg for treatment of DME after at least one year of treatment at fixed intervals, where treatment was initiated with 5 consecutive monthly doses followed by dosing every 2 months. At week 52 and week 100 of the study, i.e. second and third year of treatment, the mean changes in CRT were clinically similar for treat-and-extend (2T&E), *pro re nata* (2PRN) and 2Q8, respectively, -2.1, 2.2 and -18.8 microns at week 52, and 2.3, -13.9 and -15.5 microns at week 100.

#### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

Myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV) is a frequent cause of vision loss in adults with pathologic myopia. It develops as a wound healing mechanism consequent to Bruch's membrane ruptures and represents the most vision-threatening event in pathologic myopia.

In patients treated with Eylea in the MYRROR study (one injection given at start of therapy, with additional injections given in case of disease persistence or recurrence), CRT decreased soon after treatment initiation favouring Eylea at week 24 (-79 microns and -4 microns for the Eylea 2 mg treatment group and the control group, respectively), which was maintained through week 48. In addition, the mean CNV lesion size decreased.

#### Clinical efficacy and safety

##### *wet AMD*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled studies in patients with wet AMD (VIEW1 and VIEW2) with a total of 2,412 patients treated and evaluable for efficacy (1,817 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 49 to 99 years with a mean of 76 years. In these clinical studies, approximately 89% (1,616/1,817) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 63% (1,139/1,817) were 75 years of age or older. In each study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 4 dosing regimens:

- 1) Eylea administered at 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses (Eylea 2Q8);
- 2) Eylea administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 2Q4);
- 3) Eylea administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 0.5Q4); and
- 4) ranibizumab administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (ranibizumab 0.5Q4).

In the second year of the studies, patients continued to receive the initially randomised dosage but on a modified dosing schedule guided by assessment of visual and anatomic outcomes with a protocol-defined maximum dosing interval of 12 weeks.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients in the Per Protocol Set who maintained vision, i.e. losing fewer than 15 letters of visual acuity at week 52 from baseline.

In the VIEW1 study, at week 52, 95.1% of patients in the Eylea 2Q8 group maintained vision compared to 94.4% patients in the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group. In the VIEW2 study, at week 52, 95.6% of patients in the Eylea 2Q8 group maintained vision compared to 94.4% patients in the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group. In both studies Eylea was shown to be non-inferior and clinically equivalent to the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group.

Detailed results from the combined analysis of both studies are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1 below.

**Table 2:** Efficacy outcomes at week 52 (primary analysis) and week 96; combined data from the VIEW1 and VIEW2 studies<sup>B)</sup>

Efficacy Outcome	Eylea 2Q8 <sup>E)</sup> (Eylea 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses) (N = 607)		Ranibizumab 0.5Q4 (ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks)  (N = 595)	
	Week 52	Week 96	Week 52	Week 96
Mean number of injections from baseline	7.6	11.2	12.3	16.5
Mean number of injections from Week 52 to 96		4.2		4.7
Proportion of patients with < 15 letters loss from baseline ( PPS <sup>A)</sup> )	95.33% <sup>B)</sup>	92.42%	94.42% <sup>B)</sup>	91.60%
Difference <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	0.9% (-1.7, 3.5) <sup>F)</sup>	0.8% (-2.3, 3.8) <sup>F)</sup>		
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS <sup>A)</sup> letter score from baseline	8.40	7.62	8.74	7.89
Difference in LS <sup>A)</sup> mean change (ETDRS letters) <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	-0.32 (-1.87, 1.23)	-0.25 (-1.98, 1.49)		
Proportion of patients with ≥ 15 letters gain from baseline	30.97%	33.44%	32.44%	31.60%
Difference <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	-1.5% (-6.8, 3.8)	1.8% (-3.5, 7.1)		

A) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA  
PPS: Per Protocol Set

B) Full Analysis Set (FAS), Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF) for all analyses except proportion of patients with maintained visual acuity at week 52 which is PPS

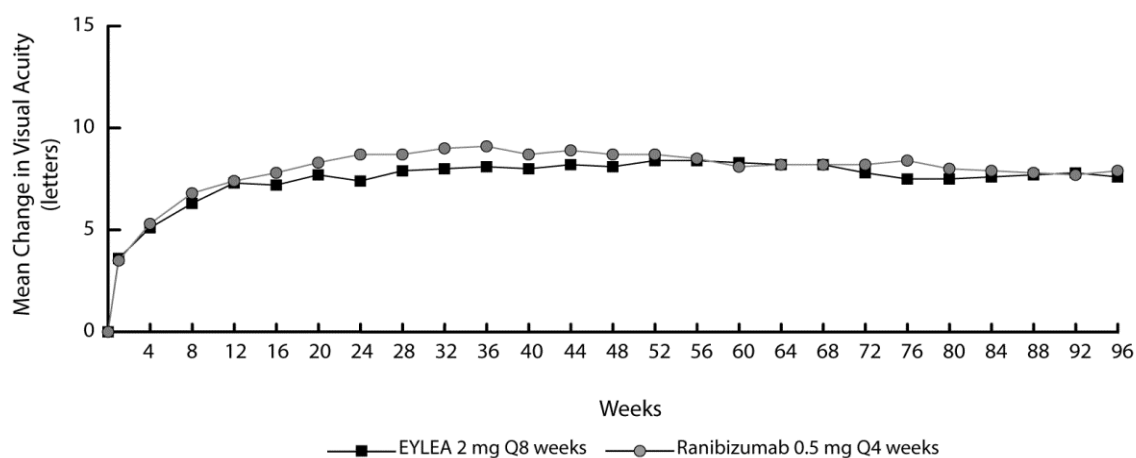
C) The difference is the value of the Eylea group minus the value of the ranibizumab group. A positive value favours Eylea.

D) Confidence interval (CI) calculated by normal approximation

E) After treatment initiation with three monthly doses

F) A confidence interval lying entirely above -10% indicates a non-inferiority of Eylea to ranibizumab

**Figure 1.** Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Week 96 for the Combined Data from the View1 and View2 Studies



In combined data analysis of VIEW1 and VIEW2, Eylea demonstrated clinically meaningful changes from baseline in pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25) without clinically meaningful differences to ranibizumab. The magnitude of these changes was similar to that seen in published studies, which corresponded to a 15-letter gain in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA).

In the second year of the studies, efficacy was generally maintained through the last assessment at week 96, and 2-4% of patients required all injections on a monthly basis, and a third of patients required at least one injection with a treatment interval of only one month.

Decreases in mean CNV area were evident in all dose groups in both studies.

Efficacy results in all evaluable subgroups (e.g. age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity, lesion type, lesion size) in each study and in the combined analysis were consistent with the results in the overall populations.

ALTAIR was a 96 week multicentre, randomised, open-label study in 247 Japanese patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, designed to assess the efficacy and safety of Eylea following two different adjustment intervals (2- weeks and 4- weeks) of a treat-and-extend dosing regimen.

All patients received monthly doses of Eylea 2 mg for 3 months, followed by one injection after a further 2 month interval. At week 16, patients were randomised 1:1 into two treatment groups: 1) Eylea treat-and-extend with 2-week adjustments and 2) Eylea treat-and-extend with 4-week adjustments. Extension or shortening of the treatment interval was decided based on visual and/or anatomic criteria defined by protocol with a maximum treatment interval of 16 weeks for both groups.

The primary efficacy endpoint was mean change in BCVA from baseline to week 52. The secondary efficacy endpoints were the proportion of patients who did not lose  $\geq 15$  letters and the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters of BCVA from baseline to week 52.

At week 52, patients in the treat-and-extend arm with 2-week adjustments gained a mean of 9.0 letters from baseline as compared to 8.4 letters for those in the 4-week adjustment group [LS mean difference in letters (95% CI): -0.4 (-3.8,3.0), ANCOVA]. The proportion of patients who did not lose  $\geq 15$  letters in the two treatment arms was similar (96.7% in the 2-week and 95.9% in the 4-week adjustment groups). The proportion of patients who gained  $\geq 15$  letters at week 52 was 32.5% in the 2-week adjustment group and 30.9% in the 4-week adjustment group. The proportion of patients who extended

their treatment interval to 12 weeks or beyond was 42.3% in the 2-week adjustment group and 49.6% in the 4-week adjustment group. Furthermore, in the 4-week adjustment group 40.7% of patients were extended to 16 week intervals. At the last visit up to week 52, 56.8% and 57.8% of patients in the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively had their next injection scheduled at an interval of 12 weeks or beyond.

In the second year of the study, efficacy was generally maintained up to and including the last assessment at week 96, with a mean gain from baseline of 7.6 letters for the 2-week adjustment group and 6.1 letters for the 4-week adjustment group. The proportion of patients who extended their treatment interval to 12 weeks or beyond was 56.9% in the 2-week adjustment group and 60.2% in the 4-week adjustment group. At the last visit prior to week 96, 64.9% and 61.2% of patients in the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively had their next injection scheduled at an interval of 12 weeks or beyond. During the second year of treatment patients in both the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups received an average of 3.6 and 3.7 injections, respectively. Over the 2 year treatment period patients received an average of 10.4 injections.

Ocular and systemic safety profiles were similar to the safety observed in the pivotal studies VIEW 1 and VIEW 2.

ARIES was a 104-week multicentre, randomised, open-label, active-controlled study in 269 patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, designed to assess the non-inferiority in terms of efficacy as well as the safety of a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after 3 consecutive monthly doses followed by extension to a 2 monthly treatment interval vs. a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after the first year of treatment.

The ARIES study also explored the percentage of patients that required more frequent treatment than every 8 weeks based on the investigator's decision. Out of the 269 patients 62 patients received more frequent dosing at least once during the course of the study. Such patients remained in the study and received treatment according to the investigator's best clinical judgement but not more frequently than every 4 weeks and their treatment intervals could be extended again afterwards. The average treatment interval after the decision to treat more frequently was 6.1 weeks. Week 104 BCVA was lower in patients requiring more intensive treatment at least once over the course of the study compared with patients who did not and the mean change in BCVA from baseline to end of the study was  $+2.3 \pm 15.6$  letters. Among the patients treated more frequently, 85.5% maintained vision, i.e. lost less than 15 letters, and 19.4% gained 15 letters or more. The safety profile of patients treated more frequently than every 8 weeks was comparable to the safety data in VIEW 1 and VIEW 2.

#### *Macular oedema secondary to CRVO*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, sham-controlled studies in patients with macular oedema secondary to CRVO (COPERNICUS and GALILEO) with a total of 358 patients treated and evaluable for efficacy (217 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 22 to 89 years with a mean of 64 years. In the CRVO studies, approximately 52% (112/217) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 18% (38/217) were 75 years of age or older. In both studies, patients were randomly assigned in a 3:2 ratio to either 2 mg Eylea administered every 4 weeks (2Q4), or the control group receiving sham injections every 4 weeks for a total of 6 injections.

After 6 consecutive monthly injections, patients received treatment only if they met pre-specified retreatment criteria, except for patients in the control group in the GALILEO study who continued to receive sham (control to control) until week 52. From this timepoint all patients were treated if pre-specified criteria were met.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24 compared to baseline. A secondary efficacy variable was change in visual acuity at week 24 compared to baseline.

The difference between treatment groups was statistically significant in favour of Eylea in both studies. The maximal improvement in visual acuity was achieved at month 3 with subsequent stabilisation of visual acuity and CRT until month 6. The statistically significant difference was maintained through week 52.

Detailed results from the analysis of both studies are shown in Table 3 and Figure 2 below.



**Table 3:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24, week 52 and week 76/100 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF<sup>C</sup>) in COPERNICUS and GALILEO studies

Efficacy Outcomes	COPERNICUS						GALILEO					
	24 Weeks		52 Weeks		100 Weeks		24 Weeks		52 Weeks		76 Weeks	
	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 114)	Control (N= 73)	Eylea 2 mg (N = 114)	Control <sup>E</sup> (N =73)	Eylea <sup>F</sup> 2 mg (N= 114)	Control <sup>E,F</sup> (N=73)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 103)	Control (N = 68)	Eylea 2 mg (N = 103)	Control (N = 68)	Eylea <sup>G</sup> 2 mg (N = 103)	Control <sup>G</sup> (N = 68)
Proportion of patients with $\geq 15$ letters gain from baseline	56%	12%	55%	30%	49.1%	23.3%	60%	22%	60%	32%	57.3%	29.4%
Weighted difference <sup>A,B,E</sup> (95% CI) p-value	44.8% (33.0, 56.6) p < 0.0001		25.9% (11.8, 40.1) p = 0.0006		26.7% (13.1, 40.3) p=0.0003		38.3% (24.4, 52.1) p < 0.0001		27.9% (13.0, 42.7) p = 0.0004		28.0% (13.3, 42.6) p=0.0004	
Mean change in BCVA <sup>C</sup> as measured by ETDRS <sup>C</sup> letter score from baseline (SD)	17.3 (12.8)	-4.0 (18.0)	16.2 (17.4)	3.8 (17.1)	13.0 (17.7)	1.5 (17.7)	18.0 (12.2)	3.3 (14.1)	16.9 (14.8)	3.8 (18.1)	13.7 (17.8)	6.2 (17.7)
Difference in LS mean <sup>A,C,D,E</sup> (95% CI) p-value	21.7 (17.4, 26.0) p < 0.0001		12.7 (7.7, 17.7) p < 0.0001		11.8 (6.7, 17.0) p < 0.0001		14.7 (10.8, 18.7) p < 0.0001		13.2 (8.2, 18.2) p < 0.0001		7.6 (2.1, 13.1) p=0.0070	

A) Difference is Eylea 2 mg Q4 weeks minus control

B) Difference and confidence interval (CI) are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )

C) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity

ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study

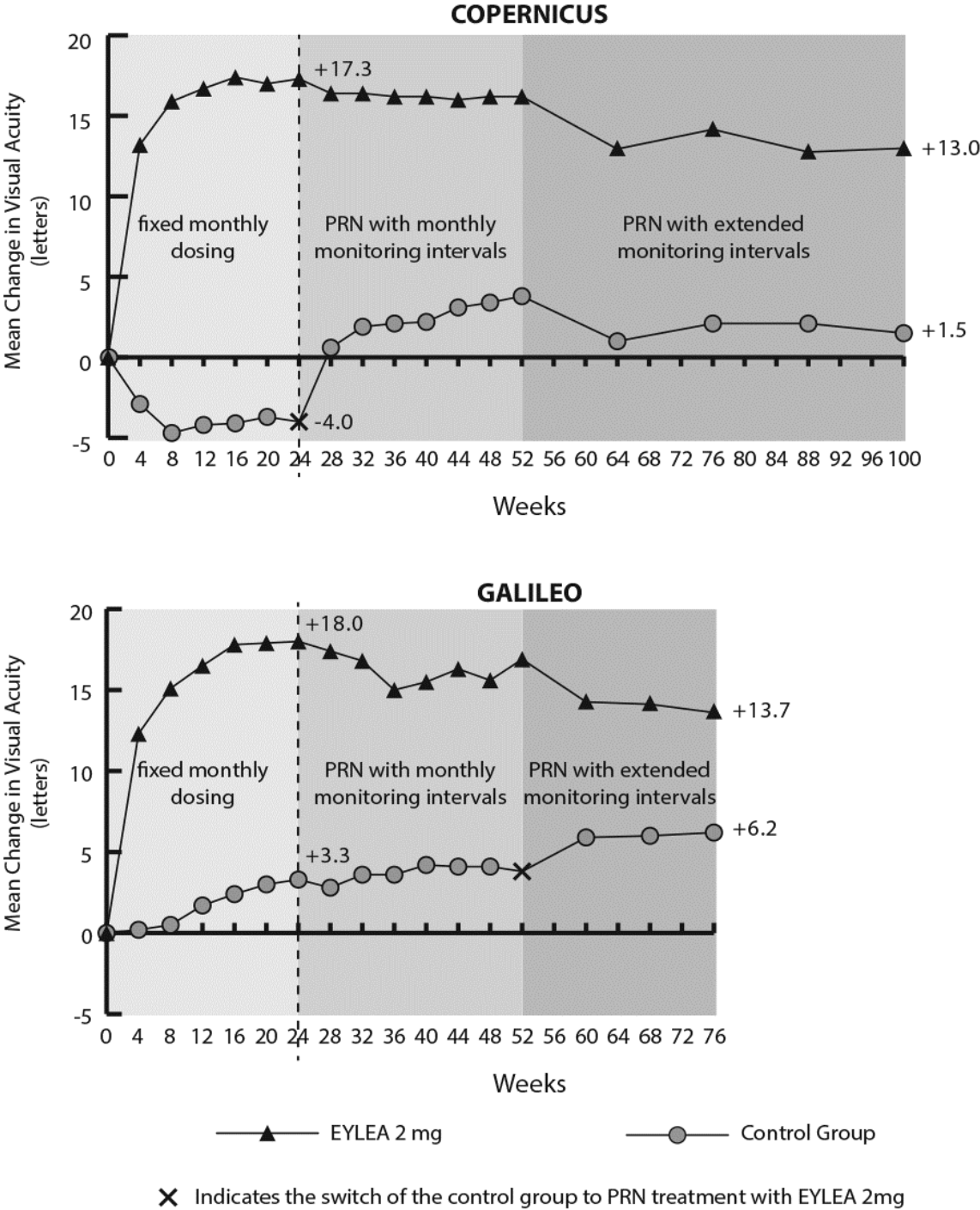
LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward

SD: Standard deviation

LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA

- D) LS mean difference and confidence interval based on an ANCOVA model with factors treatment group, region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )
- E) In COPERNICUS study, control group patients could receive Eylea on an as-needed basis as frequently as every 4 weeks during week 24 to week 52; patients had visits every 4 weeks.
- F) In COPERNICUS study, both control group and Eylea 2 mg patients received Eylea 2 mg on an as-needed basis as frequently as every 4 weeks starting from week 52 to week 96; patients had mandatory quarterly visits but may have been seen as frequently as every 4 weeks if necessary.
- G) In GALILEO study, both control group and Eylea 2 mg patients received Eylea 2 mg on an as-needed basis every 8 weeks starting from week 52 to week 68; patients had mandatory visits every 8 weeks.

**Figure 2:** Mean Change from Baseline to Week 76/100 in Visual Acuity by Treatment Group for the COPERNICUS and GALILEO Studies (Full Analysis Set)



In GALILEO, 86.4% (n=89) of the Eylea group and 79.4% (n=54) of the sham group had perfused CRVO at baseline. At week 24, this was 91.8% (n=89) in the Eylea group and 85.5% (n=47) in the sham group. These proportions were maintained at week 76, with 84.3% (n=75) in the Eylea group and 84.0% (n=42) in the sham group.

In COPERNICUS, 67.5% (n = 77) of the Eylea group and 68.5% (n = 50) of the sham group had perfused CRVO at baseline. At week 24, this was 87.4% (n = 90) in the Eylea group and 58.6% (n = 34) in the sham group. These proportions were maintained at week 100 with 76.8% (n = 76) in the Eylea group and 78% (n = 39) in the sham group. Patients in the sham group were eligible to receive Eylea from week 24.

The beneficial effect of Eylea treatment on visual function was similar in the baseline subgroups of perfused and non-perfused patients. Treatment effects in other evaluable subgroups (e.g. age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity, CRVO duration) in each study were in general consistent with the results in the overall populations.

In combined data analysis of GALILEO and COPERNICUS, Eylea demonstrated clinically meaningful changes from baseline in pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25). The magnitude of these changes was similar to that seen in published studies, which corresponded to a 15-letter gain in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA).

#### *Macular oedema secondary to BRVO*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled study in patients with macular oedema secondary to BRVO (VIBRANT) which included Hemi-Retinal Vein Occlusion. A total of 181 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (91 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 42 to 94 years with a mean of 65 years. In the BRVO study, approximately 58% (53/91) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 23% (21/91) were 75 years of age or older. In the study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to either 2 mg Eylea administered every 8 weeks following 6 initial monthly injections or laser photocoagulation administered at baseline (laser control group). Patients in the laser control group could receive additional laser photocoagulation (called 'rescue laser treatment') beginning at week 12 with a minimum interval of 12 weeks. Based on pre-specified criteria, patients in the laser group could receive rescue treatment with Eylea 2 mg from week 24, administered every 4 weeks for 3 months followed by every 8 weeks.

In the VIBRANT study, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24 compared to baseline and the Eylea group was superior to laser control.

A secondary efficacy endpoint was change in visual acuity at week 24 compared to baseline, which was statistically significant in favour of Eylea in the VIBRANT study. The course of visual improvement was rapid and peaked at 3 months with maintenance of the effect until month 12. In the laser group 67 patients received rescue treatment with Eylea beginning at week 24 (Active Control/ Eylea 2 mg group), which resulted in improvement of visual acuity by about 5 letters from week 24 to 52.

Detailed results from the analysis of the VIBRANT study are shown in Table 4 and Figure 3 below.

**Table 4:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24 and week 52 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in VIBRANT study

Efficacy Outcomes	VIBRANT			
	24 Weeks		52 Weeks	
	Eylea 2mg Q4 (N = 91)	Active Control (laser) (N = 90)	Eylea 2mg Q8 (N = 91) <sup>D)</sup>	Active Control (laser)/Eylea 2mg <sup>E)</sup> (N = 90)
Proportion of patients with $\geq 15$ letters gain from Baseline (%)	52.7%	26.7%	57.1%	41.1%
Weighted Difference <sup>A,B)</sup> (%)	26.6%		16.2%	
(95% CI)	(13.0, 40.1)		(2.0, 30.5)	
p-value	p=0.0003		p=0.0296	
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from Baseline (SD)	17.0 (11.9)	6.9 (12.9)	17.1 (13.1)	12.2 (11.9)
Difference in LS mean <sup>A,C)</sup>	10.5		5.2	
(95% CI)	(7.1, 14.0)		(1.7, 8.7)	
p-value	p<0.0001		p=0.0035 <sup>F)</sup>	

A) Difference is Eylea 2 mg Q4 weeks minus Laser Control

B) Difference and 95% CI are calculated using Mantel-Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted for region (North America vs. Japan) and baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )

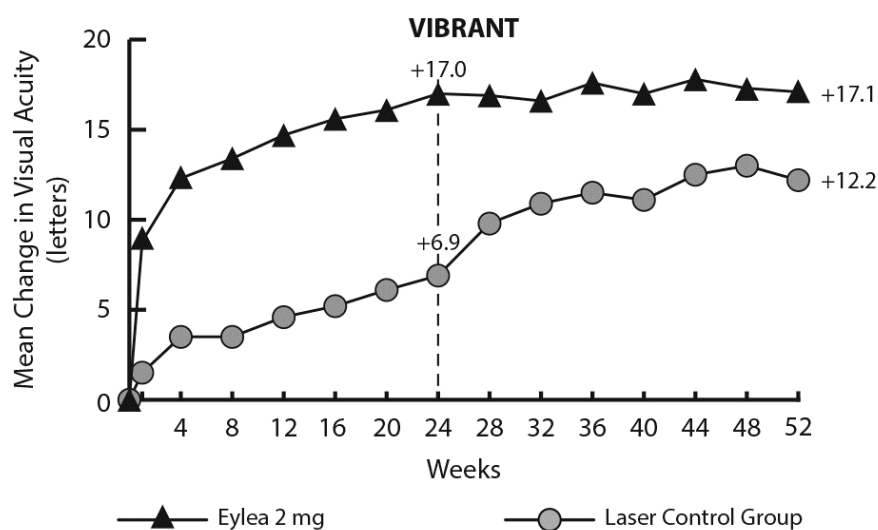
C) LS mean difference and 95% CI based on an ANCOVA model with treatment group, baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ ) and region (North America vs. Japan) as fixed effects, and baseline BCVA as covariate.

D) From week 24 on the treatment interval in the Eylea treatment group was extended for all subjects from 4 weeks to 8 weeks through week 48.

E) Beginning at week 24 subjects in the Laser Group could receive rescue treatment with Eylea, if they met at least one pre-specified eligibility criterion. A total of 67 subjects in this group received Eylea rescue treatment. The fixed regimen for Eylea rescue was three times Eylea 2 mg every 4 weeks followed by injections every 8 weeks.

F) Nominal p-value

**Figure 3:** Mean Change in BCVA as Measured by ETDRS Letter Score from Baseline to Week 52 in VIBRANT Study



At baseline, the proportion of perfused patients in the Eylea and laser groups was 60% and 68%, respectively. At week 24 these proportions were 80% and 67%, respectively. In the Eylea group the proportion of perfused patients was maintained through week 52. In the laser group, where patients were eligible for rescue treatment with Eylea from week 24, the proportion of perfused patients increased to 78% by week 52.

#### Diabetic macular oedema

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled studies in patients with DME (VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>). A total of 862 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy, 576 with Eylea. Patient ages ranged from 23 to 87 years with a mean of 63 years. In the DME studies, approximately 47% (268/576) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 9% (52/576) were 75 years of age or older. The majority of patients in both studies had Type II diabetes.

In both studies, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 dosing regimens:  
 1) Eylea administered 2 mg every 8 weeks following 5 initial monthly injections (Eylea 2Q8);  
 2) Eylea administered 2 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 2Q4); and  
 3) macular laser photocoagulation (active control).

Beginning at week 24, patients meeting a pre-specified threshold of vision loss were eligible to receive additional treatment: patients in the Eylea groups could receive laser and patients in the control group could receive Eylea.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the mean change from baseline in BCVA at week 52 and both Eylea 2Q8 and Eylea 2Q4 groups demonstrated statistical significance and were superior to the control group. This benefit was maintained through week 100.

Detailed results from the analysis of the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies are shown in Table 5 and Figure 4 below.

**Table 5:** Efficacy outcomes at week 52 and week 100 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies

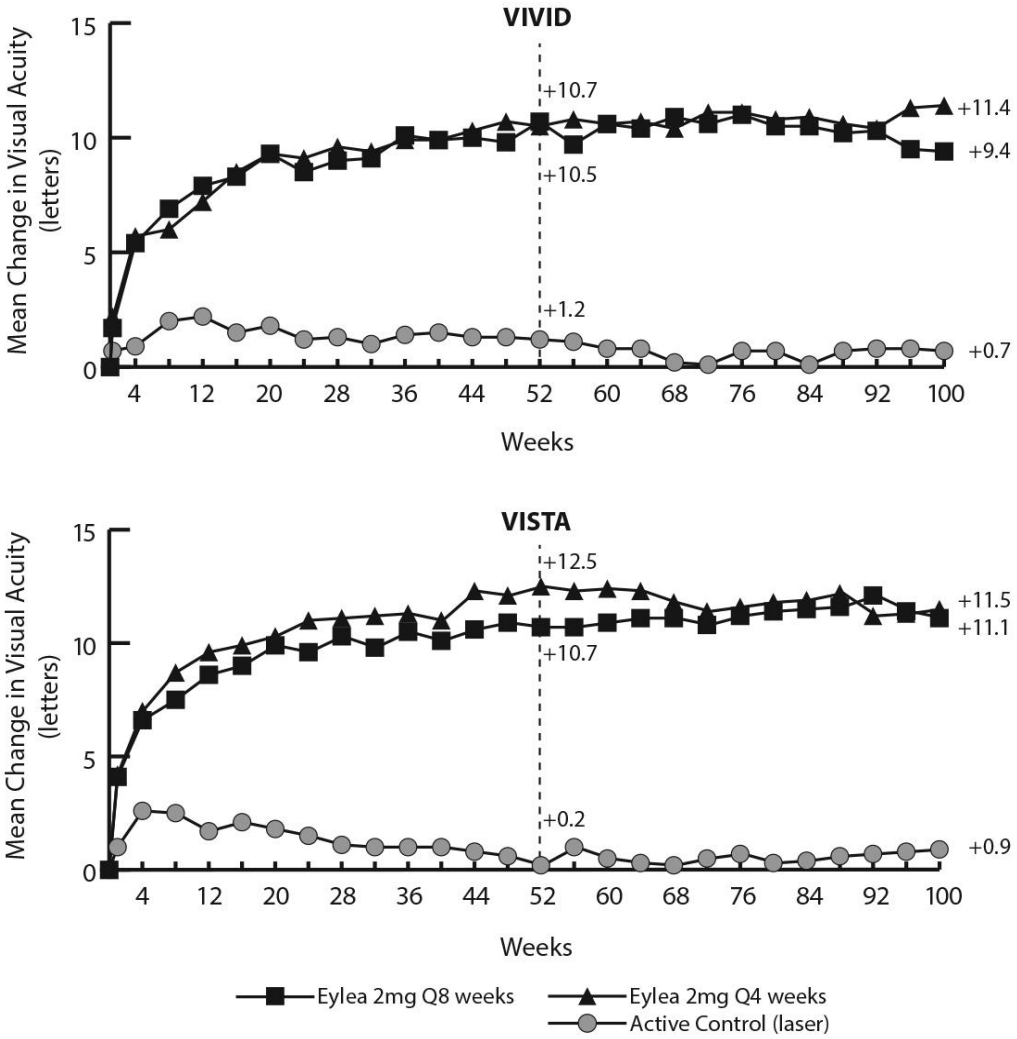
Efficacy Outcomes	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>						VISTA <sup>DME</sup>					
	52 Weeks			100 Weeks			52 Weeks			100 Weeks		
	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 135)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 136)	Active Control (laser) (N = 132)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 135)	Eylea 2mg Q4 (N=136)	Active Control (laser) (N = 132)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 151)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 154)	Active Control (laser) (N = 154)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 151)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N=154)	Active Control (laser) (N = 154)
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS <sup>E</sup> letter score from Baseline	10.7	10.5	1.2	9.4	11.4	0.7	10.7	12.5	0.2	11.1	11.5	0.9
Difference in LS mean <sup>B,C,E</sup> (97.5% CI)	9.1 (6.3, 11.8)	9.3 (6.5, 12.0)		8.2 (5.2, 11.3)	10.7 (7.6, 13.8)		10.45 (7.7, 13.2)	12.19 (9.4, 15.0)		10.1 (7.0, 13.3)	10.6 (7.1, 14.2)	
Proportion of patients with ≥ 15 letters gain from Baseline	33%	32%	9%	31.1%	38.2%	12.1%	31%	42%	8%	33.1%	38.3%	13.0%
Adjusted Difference <sup>D,C,E</sup> (97.5% CI)	24% (13.5, 34.9)	23% (12.6, 33.9)		19.0% (8.0, 29.9)	26.1% (14.8, 37.5)		23% (13.5, 33.1)	34% (24.1, 44.4)		20.1% (9.6, 30.6)	25.8% (15.1, 36.6)	

<sup>A</sup> After treatment initiation with 5 monthly injections

- <sup>B</sup> LS mean and CI based on an ANCOVA model with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate and a factor for treatment group. Additionally, region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) had been included as factor for VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, and history of MI and/or CVA as a factor for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>
- <sup>C</sup> Difference is Eylea group minus active control (laser) group
- <sup>D</sup> Difference with confidence interval (CI) and statistical test is calculated using Mantel-Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted by region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) for VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and medical history of MI or CVA for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>
- <sup>E</sup> BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward  
LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA  
CI: Confidence interval



**Figure 4:** Mean Change in BCVA as Measured by ETDRS Letter Score from Baseline to Week 100 in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies



Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline HbA1c, baseline visual acuity, prior anti-VEGF therapy) in each study and in the combined analysis were generally consistent with the results in the overall populations.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, 36 (9%) and 197 (43%) patients received prior anti-VEGF therapy, respectively, with a 3-month or longer washout period. Treatment effects in the subgroup of patients who had previously been treated with a VEGF inhibitor were similar to those seen in patients who were VEGF inhibitor naïve.

Patients with bilateral disease were eligible to receive anti-VEGF treatment in their fellow eye if assessed necessary by the physician. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, 217 (70.7%) of Eylea patients received bilateral Eylea injections until week 100; in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, 97 (35.8%) of Eylea patients received a different anti-VEGF treatment in their fellow eye.

An independent comparative trial (DRCR.net Protocol T) utilised a flexible dosing regimen based on strict OCT and vision re-treatment criteria. In the aflibercept treatment group (n = 224) at week 52, this treatment regimen resulted in patients receiving a mean of 9.2 injections, which is similar to the administered number of doses in the Eylea 2Q8 group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>, while overall efficacy of the aflibercept treatment group in Protocol T was comparable to the Eylea 2Q8 group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. A 13.3 mean letter gain with 42% of patients gaining at least 15 letters in vision from baseline was observed in Protocol T. Safety outcomes demonstrated that overall incidence

of ocular and non-ocular adverse events (including ATEs) were comparable across all treatment groups in each of the studies and between the studies.

VIOLET, a 100-week multicentre, randomised, open-label, active controlled study in patients with DME compared three different dosing regimens of Eylea 2 mg for treatment of DME after at least one year of treatment at fixed intervals, where treatment was initiated with 5 consecutive monthly doses followed by dosing every 2 months. The study evaluated non-inferiority of Eylea 2 mg dosed according to a treat-and-extend regimen (2T&E where injections intervals were kept at a minimum of 8 weeks and gradually extended based on clinical and anatomical outcomes) and Eylea 2 mg dosed as needed (2PRN where patients were observed every 4 weeks and injected when needed based on clinical and anatomical outcomes), compared to Eylea 2 mg dosed every 8 weeks (2Q8) for the second and third year of treatment.

The primary efficacy endpoint (change in BCVA from baseline to week 52) was  $0.5 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.7 \pm 6.8$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.4 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2Q8 group, achieving statistical non-inferiority ( $p < 0.0001$  for both comparisons; NI margin 4 letters). The changes in BCVA from baseline to week 100 were consistent with the week 52 results:  $-0.1 \pm 9.1$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.8 \pm 9.0$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.1 \pm 7.2$  letters in the 2Q8 group. The mean number of injections over 100 weeks were 12.3, 10.0 and 11.5 for 2Q8fix, 2T&E and 2PRN, respectively.

Ocular and systemic safety profiles in all 3 treatment groups were similar to those observed in the pivotal studies VIVID and VISTA.

In the 2T&E group, the increments and decrements for the injection intervals were at the investigator's discretion; increments of 2 weeks were recommended in the study.

#### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, sham-controlled study in treatment-naïve, Asian patients with myopic CNV. A total of 121 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (90 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 27 to 83 years with a mean of 58 years. In the myopic CNV study, approximately 36% (33/91) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 10% (9/91) were 75 years of age or older.

Patients were randomly assigned in a 3:1 ratio to receive either 2 mg Eylea intravitreally or sham injections administered once at study start with additional injections given monthly in case of disease persistence or recurrence until week 24, when the primary endpoint was assessed. At week 24, patients initially randomised to sham were eligible to receive the first dose of Eylea. Following this, patients in both groups continued to be eligible for additional injections in case of disease persistence or recurrence.

The difference between treatment groups was statistically significant in favour of Eylea for the primary endpoint (change in BCVA) and confirmatory secondary efficacy endpoint (proportion of patients who gained 15 letters in BCVA) at week 24 compared to baseline. Differences for both endpoints were maintained through week 48.

Detailed results from the analysis of the MYRROR study are shown in Table 6 and Figure 5 below.

**Table 6:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24 (primary analysis) and week 48 in MYRROR study (Full Analysis Set with LOCF<sup>A)</sup>)

Efficacy Outcomes	MYRROR			
	24 Weeks		48 Weeks	
	Eylea 2mg (N = 90)	Sham (N = 31)	Eylea 2mg (N = 90)	Sham/ Eylea 2mg (N = 31)
Mean change in BCVA <sup>B)</sup> as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (SD) <sup>B)</sup>	12.1 (8.3)	-2.0 (9.7)	13.5 (8.8)	3.9 (14.3)
Difference in LS mean <sup>C,D,E)</sup> (95% CI)	14.1 (10.8, 17.4)		9.5 (5.4, 13.7)	
Proportion of patients with $\geq 15$ letters gain from baseline	38.9%	9.7%	50.0%	29.0%
Weighted difference <sup>D,F)</sup> (95% CI)	29.2% (14.4, 44.0)		21.0% (1.9, 40.1)	

A) LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward

B) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
SD: Standard Deviation

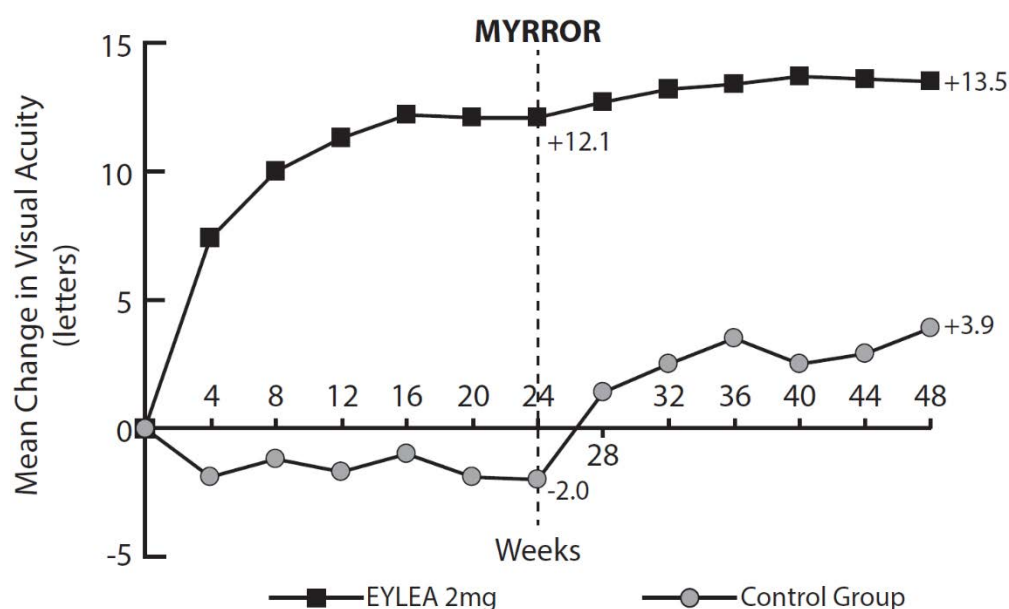
C) LS mean: Least square means derived from ANCOVA model

D) CI: Confidence Interval

E) LS mean difference and 95% CI based on an ANCOVA model with treatment group and country (country designations) as fixed effects, and baseline BCVA as covariant.

F) Difference and 95% CI are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for country (country designations)

**Figure 5:** Mean Change from Baseline to Week 48 in Visual Acuity by Treatment Group for the MYRROR Study (Full Analysis Set, LOCF)



### Paediatric population

#### *Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)*

The efficacy, safety and tolerability of Eylea 0.4 mg for the treatment of ROP in preterm infants were assessed based on the 6-month data from the multicentre, randomised, 2-arm, open-label parallel-group study FIREFLEYE, which was designed to evaluate Eylea 0.4 mg given as intravitreal injection

in comparison to laser photocoagulation therapy (laser). Eligible patients had treatment-naïve ROP classified according to the International Classification for Retinopathy of Prematurity in at least one eye with one of the following retinal findings:

- ROP Zone I Stage 1+, 2+, 3 or 3+, or
- ROP Zone II Stage 2+ or 3+, or
- AP-ROP (aggressive posterior ROP)

Eligible patients had a maximum gestational age at birth of 32 weeks or a maximum birth weight of 1500 g. The patients weighed  $\geq 800$  g at the day of treatment.

Patients were randomised in a 2:1 ratio to receive intravitreal Eylea 0.4 mg or laser therapy. All 113 patients treated at baseline (Eylea 0.4 mg n=75; laser n=38) were evaluated for the primary efficacy analysis.

Treatment success was defined as absence of active ROP and unfavourable structural outcomes in both eyes at 24 weeks after the start of study treatment. The success criterion (non-inferiority of Eylea 0.4 mg therapy to conventional laser therapy) was statistically not met, although treatment success was numerically slightly higher with Eylea 0.4 mg (85.5%) compared to laser (82.1%) at 24 weeks. However, available data from infants at 2 years of age in the extension study FIREFLEYE NEXT (54 infants: 36 Eylea 0.4 mg group and 18 laser group) tend to confirm long term efficacy of Eylea 0.4 mg.

The majority of patients treated with Eylea 0.4 mg received a single injection per eye (78.7%) and were treated bilaterally (94.7%). No patient received more than 2 injections per eye.

**Table 7: Outcomes at week 24 (FIREFLEYE)**

Treatment	Treatment success		Comparison	Treatment difference <sup>1</sup>	90% CI <sup>2, 3</sup>
	Estimated response probability <sup>1</sup>	90% CI <sup>2</sup>			
Eylea 0.4 mg (N=75)	85.5%	(78.0%, 91.3%)	Eylea 0.4 mg vs laser	3.4%	(-8%, 16.2%)
Laser (N=38)	82.1%	(70.5%, 90.8%)			

Results based on a Bayesian analysis using non-informative prior distributions.

<sup>1</sup> Median of posterior distribution

<sup>2</sup> CI: Credible interval

<sup>3</sup> Success criterion: Lower limit of 90% CI above -5%

During the 24 weeks of the study, a lower proportion of patients in the Eylea 0.4 mg group switched to another treatment modality due to lack of response compared with the laser group (10.7% vs. 13.2%). Unfavourable structural outcomes were reported in a similar proportion of patients in the Eylea 0.4 mg group (6 patients, 8%) compared with laser (3 patients, 7.9%).

#### Paediatric population

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with Eylea in all subsets of the paediatric population in wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV populations (see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use). In addition, the European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with Eylea in the following subsets of the paediatric population in ROP: term newborn infants, infants, children and adolescents.

## 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Eylea is administered directly into the vitreous to exert local effects in the eye.

### Absorption / Distribution

Aflibercept is slowly absorbed from the eye into the systemic circulation after intravitreal administration and is predominately observed in the systemic circulation as an inactive, stable complex with VEGF; however only “free aflibercept” is able to bind endogenous VEGF.

In a pharmacokinetic sub-study in 6 neovascular wet AMD patients with frequent sampling, maximum plasma concentrations of free aflibercept (systemic  $C_{max}$ ) were low, with a mean of approximately 0.02 microgram/mL (range 0 to 0.054) within 1 to 3 days after a 2 mg intravitreal injection, and were undetectable two weeks following dosage in almost all patients. Aflibercept does not accumulate in the plasma when administered intravitreally every 4 weeks.

The mean maximum plasma concentration of free aflibercept is approximately 50 to 500 times below the aflibercept concentration required to inhibit the biologic activity of systemic VEGF by 50% in animal models, in which blood pressure changes were observed after circulating levels of free aflibercept attained approximately 10 microgram/mL and returned to baseline when levels fell below approximately 1 microgram/mL. It is estimated that after intravitreal administration of 2 mg to patients, the mean maximum plasma concentration of free aflibercept is more than 100-fold lower than the concentration of aflibercept required to half-maximally bind systemic VEGF (2.91 microgram/mL) in a study of healthy volunteers. Therefore, systemic pharmacodynamic effects such as blood pressure changes are unlikely.

In pharmacokinetic sub-studies in patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME or myopic CNV mean  $C_{max}$  of free aflibercept in plasma were similar with values in the range of 0.03 to 0.05 microgram/mL and individual values not exceeding 0.14 microgram/mL. Thereafter, plasma concentrations of free aflibercept declined to values below or close to the lower limit of quantitation generally within one week; undetectable concentrations were reached before the next administration after 4 weeks in all patients.

### Elimination

As Eylea is a protein-based therapeutic, no metabolism studies have been conducted.

Free aflibercept binds VEGF to form a stable, inert complex. As with other large proteins, both free and bound aflibercept are expected to be cleared by proteolytic catabolism.

### Renal impairment

No special studies in patients with renal impairment have been conducted with Eylea.

Pharmacokinetic analysis of patients in the VIEW2 study, of which 40% had renal impairment (24% mild, 15% moderate, and 1% severe), revealed no differences with respect to plasma concentrations of active drug after intravitreal administration every 4 or 8 weeks.

Similar results were seen in patients with CRVO in the GALILEO study, in patients with DME in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, and in patients with myopic CNV in the MYRROR study.

### Paediatric population

Pharmacokinetic properties of aflibercept were evaluated in preterm infants with ROP at a dose of 0.4 mg aflibercept (per eye). Following intravitreal injection, concentrations of free and bound aflibercept were higher than those observed in wet AMD adult patients receiving 2 mg (in one eye) but lower than after *i.v.* administration of the maximum tolerated dose of 1 mg/kg in adult patients. Mean concentrations of free aflibercept declined to approximately 0.13 microgram/mL at week 4 after dosing. Plasma concentrations of free aflibercept declined to values below or close to the lower limit

of quantitation within approximately 8 weeks. Mean concentrations of adjusted bound aflibercept increased up to 1.34 microgram/mL at week 4 and declined thereafter.

An exploratory PK/PD analysis showed no relationship between systemic aflibercept concentrations and pharmacodynamic effects such as blood pressure changes.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Effects in non-clinical studies on repeated dose toxicity were observed only at systemic exposures considered substantially in excess of the maximum human exposure after intravitreal administration at the intended clinical dose indicating little relevance to clinical use.

Erosions and ulcerations of the respiratory epithelium in nasal turbinates in monkeys treated with aflibercept intravitreally were observed at systemic exposures in excess of the maximum human exposure. At the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) of 0.5mg/eye in monkeys the systemic exposure for free aflibercept was 42- and 56-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC when compared to corresponding values observed in adult patients, and 2-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  when compared to corresponding values observed in preterm infants.

No studies have been conducted on the mutagenic or carcinogenic potential of aflibercept.

An effect of aflibercept on intrauterine development was shown in embryo-foetal development studies in pregnant rabbits with intravenous (3 to 60 mg/kg) as well as subcutaneous (0.1 to 1 mg/kg) administration. The maternal NOAEL was at the dose of 3 mg/kg or 1 mg/kg, respectively. A developmental NOAEL was not identified. At the 0.1 mg/kg dose, the systemic exposures based on  $C_{max}$  and cumulative AUC for free aflibercept were approximately 17- and 10-fold higher, respectively, when compared to corresponding values observed in humans after an intravitreal dose of 2 mg.

Effects on male and female fertility were assessed as part of a 6-month study in monkeys with intravenous administration of aflibercept at doses ranging from 3 to 30 mg/kg. Absent or irregular menses associated with alterations in female reproductive hormone levels and changes in sperm morphology and motility were observed at all dose levels. Based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC for free aflibercept observed at the 3 mg/kg intravenous dose, the systemic exposures were approximately 4,900-fold and 1,500-fold higher, respectively, than the exposure observed in humans after an intravitreal dose of 2 mg. All changes were reversible.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Polysorbate 20 (E 432)  
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate, monohydrate (for pH adjustment)  
Disodium hydrogen phosphate, heptahydrate (for pH adjustment)  
Sodium chloride  
Sucrose  
Water for injections

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

#### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C to 8 °C).

Do not freeze.

Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

The unopened blister may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours. After opening the blister, proceed under aseptic conditions.

#### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Solution in pre-filled syringe (type I glass) marked with a dosing line, with a plunger stopper (elastomeric rubber) and a Luer lock adaptor with a tip cap (elastomeric rubber). Each pre-filled syringe contains an extractable volume of at least 0.09 mL. Pack size of 1 pre-filled syringe.

#### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

The pre-filled syringe is for single use in one eye only. Extraction of multiple doses from a pre-filled syringe may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

Do not open the sterile pre-filled syringe blister outside the clean administration room. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL) for adult patients and 0.4 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.01 mL) for preterm infants. See following sections “Use in the adult population” and “Use in the paediatric population”.

The solution should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or discolouration or any variation in physical appearance prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the medicinal product.

For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

#### ***Instructions for use of pre-filled syringe:***

##### **Use in the paediatric population**

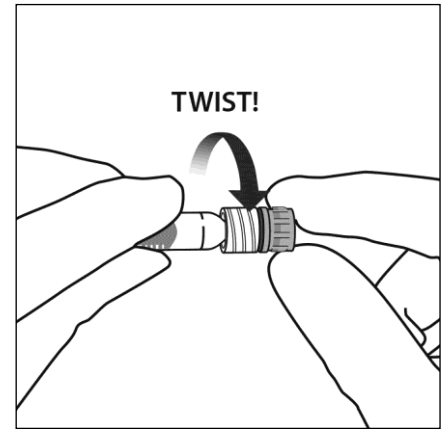
To prepare the pre-filled syringe for administration to preterm infants, follow the steps 1 and 2 below and then adhere to the instructions for use included in the package of the PICLEO paediatric dosing device.

##### **Use in the adult population**

To prepare the pre-filled syringe for administration to adults, follow all steps below.

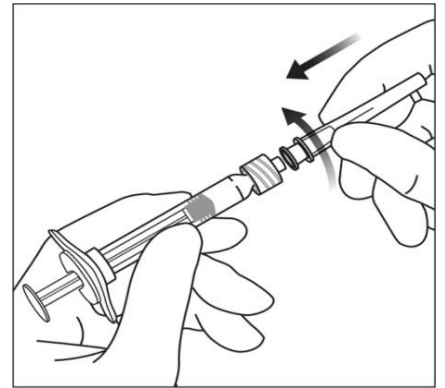
1. When ready to administer Eylea, open the carton and remove the sterilised blister. Carefully peel open the blister ensuring the sterility of its contents. Keep the syringe in the sterile tray until you are ready for assembly.
2. Using aseptic technique, remove the syringe from the sterilised blister.

3. To remove the syringe cap, hold the syringe in one hand while using the other hand to grasp the syringe cap with the thumb and fore finger. Please note: You should twist off (do not snap off) the syringe cap.

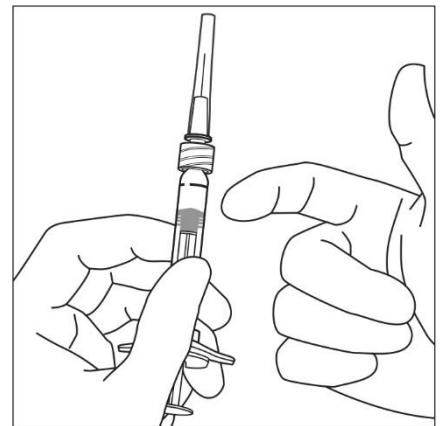


4. To avoid compromising the sterility of the product, do not pull back on the plunger

5. Using aseptic technique, firmly twist the injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.



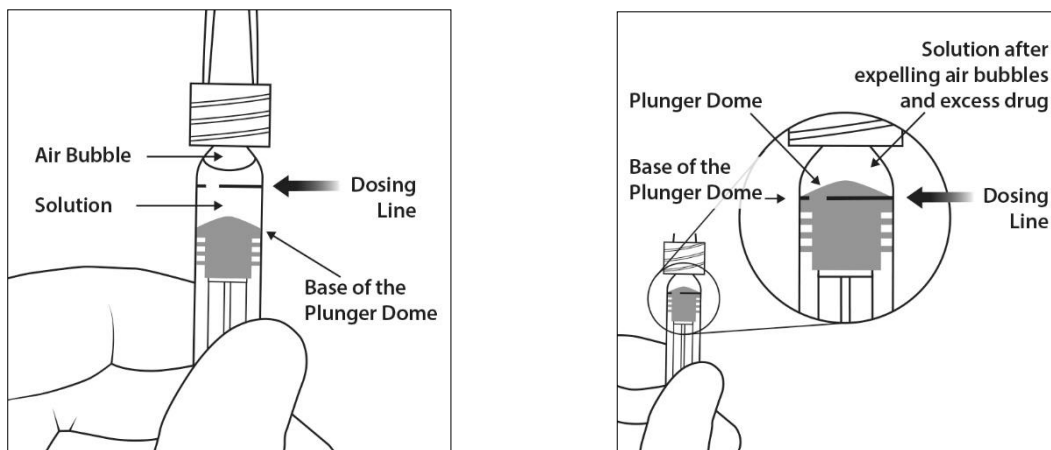
6. Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.





7. The excess volume must be discarded prior to administration. Eliminate all bubbles and **expel excess medicinal product by slowly depressing the plunger to align the base of the plunger dome (not the tip of the dome) with the dosing line on the syringe** (equivalent to 0.05 mL i.e. 2 mg aflibercept).

**Note:** This accurate positioning of the plunger is very important, because incorrect plunger positioning can lead to delivering more or less than the labelled dose.



8. Inject while pressing the plunger carefully and with constant pressure. Do not apply additional pressure once the plunger has reached the bottom of the syringe. **Do not administer any residual solution observed in the syringe.**
9. The pre-filled syringe is for single use only. Extraction of multiple doses from a pre-filled syringe may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## 7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

## 8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/12/797/001

## 9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 22 November 2012  
Date of latest renewal: 13 July 2017

## 10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

## 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in a vial.

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 mL solution for injection contains 40 mg aflibercept\*.

One vial contains an extractable volume of at least 0.1 mL, equivalent to at least 4 mg aflibercept. This provides a usable amount to deliver a single dose of 0.05 mL containing 2 mg aflibercept.

\*Fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) receptors 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1 and produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection (injection)

The solution is a clear, colourless to pale yellow and iso-osmotic solution.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Eylea is indicated for adults for the treatment of

- neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO or central RVO) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DME) (see section 5.1),
- visual impairment due to myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV) (see section 5.1).

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Eylea is for intravitreal injection only.

Eylea must only be administered by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections.

#### Posology

*wet AMD*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept, equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Eylea treatment is initiated with one injection per month for three consecutive doses. The treatment interval is then extended to two months.

Based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at two months or further extended using a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where injection intervals are increased in 2- or 4-weekly increments to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes.

If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly.

There is no requirement for monitoring between injections. Based on the physician's judgement the schedule of monitoring visits may be more frequent than the injection visits.

Treatment intervals greater than four months or shorter than 4 weeks between injections have not been studied (see section 5.1).

#### *Macular oedema secondary to RVO (branch RVO or central RVO)*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL. After the initial injection, treatment is given monthly. The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

If visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment, Eylea should be discontinued.

Monthly treatment continues until maximum visual acuity is achieved and/or there are no signs of disease activity. Three or more consecutive, monthly injections may be needed.

Treatment may then be continued with a treat-and-extend regimen with gradually increased treatment intervals to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes, however there are insufficient data to conclude on the length of these intervals. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly.

The monitoring and treatment schedule should be determined by the treating physician based on the individual patient's response.

Monitoring for disease activity may include clinical examination, functional testing or imaging techniques (e.g. optical coherence tomography or fluorescein angiography).

#### *Diabetic macular oedema*

The recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Eylea treatment is initiated with one injection per month for five consecutive doses, followed by one injection every two months.

Based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at 2 months or individualized, such as with a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where the treatment intervals are usually increased by 2-week increments to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes. There are limited data for treatment intervals longer than 4 months. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly. Treatment intervals shorter than 4 weeks have not been studied (see section 5.1).

The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician.

If visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment, Eylea should be discontinued.

### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

The recommended dose for Eylea is a single intravitreal injection of 2 mg aflibercept equivalent to 0.05 mL.

Additional doses may be administered if visual and/or anatomic outcomes indicate that the disease persists. Recurrences should be treated as a new manifestation of the disease.

The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician.

The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

### Special populations

#### *Hepatic and/or renal impairment*

No specific studies in patients with hepatic and/or renal impairment have been conducted with Eylea.

Available data do not suggest a need for a dose adjustment with Eylea in these patients (see section 5.2).

#### *Elderly population*

No special considerations are needed. There is limited experience in patients older than 75 years with DME.

#### *Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea have not been established in children and adolescents. There is no relevant use of Eylea in the paediatric population for the indications of wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV.

### Method of administration

Intravitreal injections must be carried out according to medical standards and applicable guidelines by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections. In general, adequate anaesthesia and asepsis, including topical broad spectrum microbicide (e.g. povidone iodine applied to the periocular skin, eyelid and ocular surface), have to be ensured. Surgical hand disinfection, sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent) are recommended.

The injection needle should be inserted 3.5-4.0 mm posterior to the limbus into the vitreous cavity, avoiding the horizontal meridian and aiming towards the centre of the globe. The injection volume of 0.05 mL is then delivered; a different scleral site should be used for subsequent injections.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure. Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, sterile equipment for paracentesis should be available.

Following intravitreal injection patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis (e.g. eye pain, redness of the eye, photophobia, blurring of vision) without delay.

Each vial should only be used for the treatment of a single eye. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

The vial contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL solution for injection). The extractable volume of the vial is the amount that can be withdrawn from the vial and is not to be used in total. For the Eylea vial, the extractable volume is at least 0.1 mL. **The excess volume must be expelled before injecting the recommended dose** (see section 6.6).

Injecting the entire volume of the vial could result in overdose. To expel the air bubbles along with excess medicinal product, slowly depress the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks 0.05 mL on the syringe (equivalent to 0.05 mL i.e. 2 mg aflibercept) (see sections 4.9 and 6.6).

After injection any unused product must be discarded.

For handling of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance aflibercept or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.  
Active or suspected ocular or periocular infection.  
Active severe intraocular inflammation.

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

#### Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

#### Intravitreal injection-related reactions

Intravitreal injections, including those with Eylea, have been associated with endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, retinal tear and iatrogenic traumatic cataract (see section 4.8). Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering Eylea. In addition, patients should be monitored during the week following the injection to permit early treatment if an infection occurs. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or any of the above mentioned events without delay.

The vial contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL). The excess volume must be discarded prior to administration (see sections 4.2 and 6.6).

Increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 60 minutes of intravitreal injection, including those with Eylea (see section 4.8). Special precaution is needed in patients with poorly controlled glaucoma (do not inject Eylea while the intraocular pressure is  $\geq 30$  mmHg). In all cases, both the intraocular pressure and the perfusion of the optic nerve head must therefore be monitored and managed appropriately.

#### Immunogenicity

As this is a therapeutic protein, there is a potential for immunogenicity with Eylea (see section 4.8). Patients should be instructed to report any signs or symptoms of intraocular inflammation, e.g. pain, photophobia, or redness, which may be a clinical sign attributable to hypersensitivity.

#### Systemic effects

Systemic adverse events including non-ocular haemorrhages and arterial thromboembolic events have been reported following intravitreal injection of VEGF inhibitors and there is a theoretical risk that these may relate to VEGF inhibition. There are limited data on safety in the treatment of patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME or myopic CNV with a history of stroke or transient ischaemic attacks or myocardial infarction within the last 6 months. Caution should be exercised when treating such patients.

#### Other

As with other intravitreal anti-VEGF treatments for AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV the following also applies:

- The safety and efficacy of Eylea therapy administered to both eyes concurrently have not been systematically studied (see section 5.1). If bilateral treatment is performed at the same time this could lead to an increased systemic exposure, which could increase the risk of systemic adverse events.
- Concomitant use of other anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor)
- There is no data available on the concomitant use of Eylea with other anti-VEGF medicinal products (systemic or ocular).
- Risk factors associated with the development of a retinal pigment epithelial tear after anti-VEGF therapy for wet AMD, include a large and/or high pigment epithelial retinal detachment. When initiating Eylea therapy, caution should be used in patients with these risk factors for retinal pigment epithelial tears.
- Treatment should be withheld in patients with rhegmatogenous retinal detachment or stage 3 or 4 macular holes.
- In the event of a retinal break the dose should be withheld and treatment should not be resumed until the break is adequately repaired.
- The dose should be withheld and treatment should not be resumed earlier than the next scheduled treatment in the event of:
  - a decrease in best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) of  $\geq 30$  letters compared with the last assessment of visual acuity;
  - a subretinal haemorrhage involving the centre of the fovea, or, if the size of the haemorrhage is  $\geq 50\%$ , of the total lesion area.
- The dose should be withheld within the previous or next 28 days in the event of a performed or planned intraocular surgery.
- Eylea should not be used in pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus (see section 4.6).
- Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of aflibercept (see section 4.6).
- There is limited experience with treatment of patients with ischaemic CRVO and BRVO. In patients presenting with clinical signs of irreversible ischaemic visual function loss, the treatment is not recommended.

#### Populations with limited data

There is only limited experience in the treatment of subjects with DME due to type I diabetes or in diabetic patients with an HbA1c over 12% or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Eylea has not been studied in patients with active systemic infections or in patients with concurrent eye conditions such as retinal detachment or macular hole. There is also no experience of treatment with Eylea in diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension. This lack of information should be considered by the physician when treating such patients.

In myopic CNV there is no experience with Eylea in the treatment of non-Asian patients, patients who have previously undergone treatment for myopic CNV, and patients with extrafoveal lesions.

#### Information about excipients

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

No interaction studies have been performed.

Adjunctive use of verteporfin photodynamic therapy (PDT) and Eylea has not been studied, therefore, a safety profile is not established.

## 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

### Women of childbearing potential

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection of aflibercept (see section 4.4).

### Pregnancy

There are no data on the use of aflibercept in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown embryo-foetal toxicity (see section 5.3).

Although the systemic exposure after ocular administration is very low, Eylea should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus.

### Breast-feeding

Based on very limited human data, aflibercept may be excreted in human milk at low levels. Aflibercept is a large protein molecule and the amount of medication absorbed by the infant is expected to be minimal. The effects of aflibercept on a breast-fed newborn/infant are unknown.

As a precautionary measure, breast-feeding is not recommended during the use of Eylea.

### Fertility

Results from animal studies with high systemic exposure indicate that aflibercept can impair male and female fertility (see section 5.3). Such effects are not expected after ocular administration with very low systemic exposure.

## 4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Injection with Eylea has a minor influence on the ability to drive and use machines due to possible temporary visual disturbances associated either with the injection or the eye examination. Patients should not drive or use machines until their visual function has recovered sufficiently.

## 4.8 Undesirable effects

### Summary of the safety profile

A total of 3,102 patients constituted the safety population in the eight phase III studies. Among those, 2,501 patients were treated with the recommended dose of 2 mg.

Serious ocular adverse reactions in the study eye related to the injection procedure have occurred in less than 1 in 1,900 intravitreal injections with Eylea and included blindness, endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, cataract traumatic, cataract, vitreous haemorrhage, vitreous detachment, and intraocular pressure increased (see section 4.4).

The most frequently observed adverse reactions (in at least 5% of patients treated with Eylea) were conjunctival haemorrhage (25%), retinal haemorrhage (11%), visual acuity reduced (11%), eye pain (10%), cataract (8%), intraocular pressure increased (8%), vitreous detachment (7%), and vitreous floaters (7%).

### Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The safety data described below include all adverse reactions from the eight phase III studies in the indications wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV with a reasonable possibility of causality to the injection procedure or medicinal product.

The adverse reactions are listed by system organ class and frequency using the following convention:

Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ )

Within each frequency grouping, adverse drug reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

**Table 1:** All treatment-emergent adverse drug reactions reported in patients in phase III studies (pooled data of the phase III studies for the indications wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV) or during post-marketing surveillance

System Organ Class	Very common	Common	Uncommon	Rare
<b>Immune system disorders</b>			Hypersensitivity***	
<b>Eye disorders</b>	Visual acuity reduced, Retinal haemorrhage, Conjunctival haemorrhage, Eye pain	Retinal pigment epithelial tear*, Detachment of the retinal pigment epithelium, Retinal degeneration, Vitreous haemorrhage, Cataract, Cataract cortical, Cataract nuclear, Cataract subcapsular, Corneal erosion, Corneal abrasion, Intraocular pressure increased, Vision blurred, Vitreous floaters, Vitreous detachment, Injection site pain, Foreign body sensation in eyes, Lacrimation increased, Eyelid oedema, Injection site haemorrhage, Punctate keratitis, Conjunctival hyperaemia, Ocular hyperaemia	Endophthalmitis**, Retinal detachment, Retinal tear, Iritis, Uveitis, Iridocyclitis, Lenticular opacities, Corneal epithelium defect, Injection site irritation, Abnormal sensation in eye, Eyelid irritation, Anterior chamber flare, Corneal oedema	Blindness, Cataract traumatic, Vitritis, Hypopyon

\* Conditions known to be associated with wet AMD. Observed in the wet AMD studies only.

\*\* Culture positive and culture negative endophthalmitis

\*\*\* During the post-marketing period, reports of hypersensitivity included rash, pruritus, urticaria, and isolated cases of severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions.

#### *Description of selected adverse reactions*

In the wet AMD phase III studies, there was an increased incidence of conjunctival haemorrhage in patients receiving anti-thrombotic agents. This increased incidence was comparable between patients treated with ranibizumab and Eylea.



Arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) are adverse events potentially related to systemic VEGF inhibition. There is a theoretical risk of arterial thromboembolic events, including stroke and myocardial infarction, following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors.

A low incidence rate of arterial thromboembolic events was observed in the Eylea clinical trials in patients with AMD, DME, RVO and myopic CNV. Across indications no notable difference between the groups treated with aflibercept and the respective comparator groups were observed.

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity with Eylea.

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in [Appendix V](#).

### **4.9 Overdose**

In clinical trials, doses of up to 4 mg in monthly intervals have been used and isolated cases of overdoses with 8 mg occurred.

Overdosing with increased injection volume may increase intraocular pressure. Therefore, in case of overdose, intraocular pressure should be monitored and if deemed necessary by the treating physician, adequate treatment should be initiated (see section 6.6).

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Ophthalmologicals / Antineovascularisation agents  
ATC code: S01LA05

Aflibercept is a recombinant fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF receptor 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1.

Aflibercept is produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

Aflibercept acts as a soluble decoy receptor that binds VEGF-A and PlGF with higher affinity than their natural receptors, and thereby can inhibit the binding and activation of these cognate VEGF receptors.

#### Mechanism of action

Vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) and placental growth factor (PlGF) are members of the VEGF family of angiogenic factors that can act as potent mitogenic, chemotactic, and vascular permeability factors for endothelial cells. VEGF acts via two receptor tyrosine kinases; VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2, present on the surface of endothelial cells. PlGF binds only to VEGFR-1, which is also present on the surface of leucocytes. Excessive activation of these receptors by VEGF-A can result in pathological neovascularisation and excessive vascular permeability. PlGF can synergize with VEGF-A in these processes, and is also known to promote leucocyte infiltration and vascular inflammation.

## Pharmacodynamic effects

### *wet AMD*

Wet AMD is characterised by pathological choroidal neovascularisation (CNV). Leakage of blood and fluid from CNV may cause retinal thickening or oedema and/or sub-/intra-retinal haemorrhage, resulting in loss of visual acuity.

In patients treated with Eylea (one injection per month for three consecutive months, followed by one injection every 2 months), central retinal thickness [CRT] decreased soon after treatment initiation, and the mean CNV lesion size was reduced, consistent with the results seen with ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month.

In the VIEW1 study there were mean decreases in CRT on optical coherence tomography (OCT) (-130 and -129 microns at week 52 for the Eylea 2 mg every two months and ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month study groups, respectively). Also at the 52 week time point, in the VIEW2 study there were mean decreases in CRT on OCT (-149 and -139 microns for the Eylea 2 mg every two months and ranibizumab 0.5 mg every month study groups, respectively). The reduction of CNV size and reduction in CRT were generally maintained in the second year of the studies.

The ALTAIR study was conducted in Japanese patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, showing similar outcomes to the VIEW studies using 3 initial monthly Eylea 2 mg injections, followed by one injection after a further 2 months, and then continued with a treat-and-extend regimen with variable treatment intervals (2-week or 4-week adjustments) up to a maximum 16 week interval according to pre-specified criteria. At week 52, there were mean decreases in central retinal thickness (CRT) on OCT of -134.4 and -126.1 microns for the 2-week adjustment group and the 4-week adjustment group, respectively. The proportion of patients without fluid on OCT at week 52 was 68.3% and 69.1% in the 2- and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively. The reduction in CRT was generally maintained in both treatment arms in the second year of the ALTAIR study.

The ARIES study was designed to explore the non-inferiority of an Eylea 2 mg treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated immediately after administration of 3 initial monthly injections and one additional injection after 2 months vs. a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after one year of treatment. For patients requiring a more frequent than Q8 dosing at least once over the course of the study, CRT remained higher, but the mean decrease in CRT from baseline to week 104 was -160.4 microns, similar to the patients treated at Q8 or less frequent intervals.

### *Macular oedema secondary to CRVO and BRVO*

In CRVO and BRVO, retinal ischaemia occurs and signals the release of VEGF which in turn destabilises the tight junctions and promotes endothelial cell proliferation. Up-regulation of VEGF is associated with the breakdown of the blood retina barrier, increased vascular permeability, retinal oedema, and neovascularisation complications.

In patients treated with 6 consecutive monthly injections of Eylea 2 mg, there was a consistent, rapid and robust morphologic response (as measured by improvements in mean CRT) observed. At week 24, the reduction in CRT was statistically superior versus control in all three studies (COPERNICUS in CRVO: -457 vs. -145 microns; GALILEO in CRVO: -449 vs. -169 microns; VIBRANT in BRVO: -280 vs. -128 microns). This decrease from baseline in CRT was maintained to the end of each study, week 100 in COPERNICUS, week 76 in GALILEO, and week 52 in VIBRANT.

### *Diabetic macular oedema*

Diabetic macular oedema is a consequence of diabetic retinopathy and is characterised by increased vasopermeability and damage to the retinal capillaries which may result in loss of visual acuity.

In patients treated with Eylea, the majority of whom were classified as having Type II diabetes, a rapid and robust response in morphology (CRT, DRSS level) was observed.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, a statistically significant greater mean decrease in CRT from baseline to week 52 was observed in patients treated with Eylea than with the laser control, -192.4 and -183.1 microns for the 2Q8 Eylea groups and -66.2 and -73.3 microns for the control groups, respectively. At week 100 the decrease was maintained with -195.8 and -191.1 microns for the 2Q8 Eylea groups and -85.7 and -83.9 microns for the control groups, in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, respectively.

A  $\geq 2$  step improvement in DRSS was assessed in a pre-specified manner in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. The DRSS score was gradable in 73.7% of the patients in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and 98.3% of the patients in VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. At week 52, 27.7% and 29.1% of the Eylea 2Q8 groups, and 7.5% and 14.3% of the control groups experienced a  $\geq 2$  step improvement in the DRSS. At week 100, the respective percentages were 32.6% and 37.1% of the Eylea 2Q8 groups and 8.2% and 15.6% of the control groups.

The VIOLET study compared three different dosing regimens of Eylea 2 mg for treatment of DME after at least one year of treatment at fixed intervals, where treatment was initiated with 5 consecutive monthly doses followed by dosing every 2 months. At week 52 and week 100 of the study, i.e. second and third year of treatment, the mean changes in CRT were clinically similar for treat-and-extend (2T&E), *pro re nata* (2PRN) and 2Q8, respectively, -2.1, 2.2 and -18.8 microns at week 52, and 2.3, -13.9 and -15.5 microns at week 100.

#### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

Myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV) is a frequent cause of vision loss in adults with pathologic myopia. It develops as a wound healing mechanism consequent to Bruch's membrane ruptures and represents the most vision-threatening event in pathologic myopia.

In patients treated with Eylea in the MYRROR study (one injection given at start of therapy, with additional injections given in case of disease persistence or recurrence), CRT decreased soon after treatment initiation favouring Eylea at week 24 (-79 microns and -4 microns for the Eylea 2 mg treatment group and the control group, respectively), which was maintained through week 48. In addition, the mean CNV lesion size decreased.

#### Clinical efficacy and safety

##### *wet AMD*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled studies in patients with wet AMD (VIEW1 and VIEW2) with a total of 2,412 patients treated and evaluable for efficacy (1,817 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 49 to 99 years with a mean of 76 years. In these clinical studies, approximately 89% (1,616/1,817) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 63% (1,139/1,817) were 75 years of age or older. In each study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 4 dosing regimens:

- 1) Eylea administered at 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses (Eylea 2Q8);
- 2) Eylea administered at 2 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 2Q4);
- 3) Eylea administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 0.5Q4); and
- 4) ranibizumab administered at 0.5 mg every 4 weeks (ranibizumab 0.5Q4).

In the second year of the studies, patients continued to receive the initially randomised dosage but on a modified dosing schedule guided by assessment of visual and anatomic outcomes with a protocol-defined maximum dosing interval of 12 weeks.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients in the Per Protocol Set who maintained vision, i.e. losing fewer than 15 letters of visual acuity at week 52 from baseline.

In the VIEW1 study, at week 52, 95.1% of patients in the Eylea 2Q8 group maintained vision compared to 94.4% patients in the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group. In the VIEW2 study, at week 52, 95.6% of patients in the Eylea 2Q8 group maintained vision compared to 94.4% patients in the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group. In both studies Eylea was shown to be non-inferior and clinically equivalent to the ranibizumab 0.5Q4 group.

Detailed results from the combined analysis of both studies are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1 below.

**Table 2:** Efficacy outcomes at week 52 (primary analysis) and week 96; combined data from the VIEW1 and VIEW2 studies<sup>B)</sup>

Efficacy Outcome	Eylea 2Q8 <sup>E)</sup> (Eylea 2 mg every 8 weeks following 3 initial monthly doses) (N = 607)		Ranibizumab 0.5Q4 (ranibizumab 0.5 mg every 4 weeks) (N = 595)	
	Week 52	Week 96	Week 52	Week 96
Mean number of injections from baseline	7.6	11.2	12.3	16.5
Mean number of injections from Week 52 to 96		4.2		4.7
Proportion of patients with < 15 letters loss from baseline (PPS <sup>A)</sup> )	95.33% <sup>B)</sup>	92.42%	94.42% <sup>B)</sup>	91.60%
Difference <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	0.9% (-1.7, 3.5) <sup>F)</sup>	0.8% (-2.3, 3.8) <sup>F)</sup>		
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS <sup>A)</sup> letter score from baseline	8.40	7.62	8.74	7.89
Difference in LS <sup>A)</sup> mean change (ETDRS letters) <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	-0.32 (-1.87, 1.23)	-0.25 (-1.98, 1.49)		
Proportion of patients with ≥ 15 letters gain from baseline	30.97%	33.44%	32.44%	31.60%
Difference <sup>C)</sup> (95% CI) <sup>D)</sup>	-1.5% (-6.8, 3.8)	1.8% (-3.5, 7.1)		

A) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA  
PPS: Per Protocol Set

B) Full Analysis Set (FAS), Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF) for all analyses except proportion of patients with maintained visual acuity at week 52 which is PPS

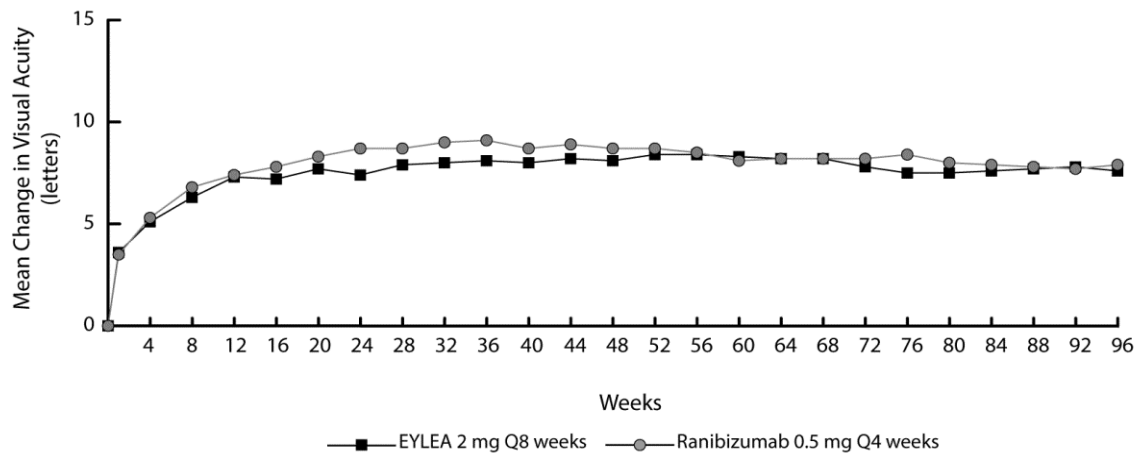
C) The difference is the value of the Eylea group minus the value of the ranibizumab group. A positive value favours Eylea.

D) Confidence interval (CI) calculated by normal approximation

E) After treatment initiation with three monthly doses

F) A confidence interval lying entirely above -10% indicates a non-inferiority of Eylea to ranibizumab

**Figure 1.** Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Week 96 for the Combined Data from the View1 and View2 Studies



In combined data analysis of VIEW1 and VIEW2 Eylea demonstrated clinically meaningful changes from baseline in pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25) without clinically meaningful differences to ranibizumab. The magnitude of these changes was similar to that seen in published studies, which corresponded to a 15-letter gain in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA).

In the second year of the studies, efficacy was generally maintained through the last assessment at week 96, and 2-4% of patients required all injections on a monthly basis, and a third of patients required at least one injection with a treatment interval of only one month.

Decreases in mean CNV area were evident in all dose groups in both studies.

Efficacy results in all evaluable subgroups (e.g. age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity, lesion type, lesion size) in each study and in the combined analysis were consistent with the results in the overall populations.

ALTAIR was a 96 week multicentre, randomised, open-label study in 247 Japanese patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, designed to assess the efficacy and safety of Eylea following two different adjustment intervals (2-weeks and 4-weeks) of a treat-and-extend dosing regimen.

All patients received monthly doses of Eylea 2 mg for 3 months, followed by one injection after a further 2 month interval. At week 16, patients were randomised 1:1 into two treatment groups: 1) Eylea treat-and-extend with 2-week adjustments and 2) Eylea treat-and-extend with 4-week adjustments. Extension or shortening of the treatment interval was decided based on visual and/or anatomic criteria defined by protocol with a maximum treatment interval of 16 weeks for both groups.

The primary efficacy endpoint was mean change in BCVA from baseline to week 52. The secondary efficacy endpoints were the proportion of patients who did not lose  $\geq 15$  letters and the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters of BCVA from baseline to week 52.

At week 52, patients in the treat-and-extend arm with 2-week adjustments gained a mean of 9.0 letters from baseline as compared to 8.4 letters for those in the 4-week adjustment group [LS mean difference in letters (95% CI): -0.4 (-3.8,3.0), ANCOVA]. The proportion of patients who did not lose  $\geq 15$  letters in the two treatment arms was similar (96.7% in the 2-week and 95.9% in the 4-week adjustment groups). The proportion of patients who gained  $\geq 15$  letters at week 52 was 32.5% in the 2-week adjustment group and 30.9% in the 4-week adjustment group. The proportion of patients who extended their treatment interval to 12 weeks or beyond was 42.3% in the 2-week adjustment group and 49.6% in the 4-week adjustment group. Furthermore, in the 4-week adjustment group 40.7% of patients were extended to 16 week intervals. At the last visit up to week 52, 56.8% and 57.8% of patients in the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively had their next injection scheduled at an interval of 12 weeks or beyond.

In the second year of the study, efficacy was generally maintained up to and including the last assessment at week 96, with a mean gain from baseline of 7.6 letters for the 2-week adjustment group and 6.1 letters for the 4-week adjustment group. The proportion of patients who extended their treatment interval to 12 weeks or beyond was 56.9% in the 2-week adjustment group and 60.2% in the 4-week adjustment group. At the last visit prior to week 96, 64.9% and 61.2% of patients in the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups, respectively had their next injection scheduled at an interval of 12 weeks or beyond. During the second year of treatment patients in both the 2-week and 4-week adjustment groups received an average of 3.6 and 3.7 injections, respectively. Over the 2 year treatment period patients received an average of 10.4 injections.

Ocular and systemic safety profiles were similar to the safety observed in the pivotal studies VIEW1 and VIEW2.

ARIES was a 104-week multicentre, randomised, open-label, active-controlled study in 269 patients with treatment naïve wet AMD, designed to assess the non-inferiority in terms of efficacy as well as the safety of a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after 3 consecutive monthly doses followed by extension to a 2 monthly treatment interval vs. a treat-and-extend dosing regimen initiated after the first year of treatment.

The ARIES study also explored the percentage of patients that required more frequent treatment than every 8 weeks based on the investigator's decision. Out of the 269 patients 62 patients received more frequent dosing at least once during the course of the study. Such patients remained in the study and received treatment according to the investigator's best clinical judgement but not more frequently than every 4 weeks and their treatment intervals could be extended again afterwards. The average treatment interval after the decision to treat more frequently was 6.1 weeks. Week 104 BCVA was lower in patients requiring more intensive treatment at least once over the course of the study compared with patients who did not and the mean change in BCVA from baseline to end of the study was  $+2.3 \pm 15.6$  letters. Among the patients treated more frequently, 85.5% maintained vision, i.e. lost less than 15 letters, and 19.4% gained 15 letters or more. The safety profile of patients treated more frequently than every 8 weeks was comparable to the safety data in VIEW 1 and VIEW 2.

#### *Macular oedema secondary to CRVO*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, sham-controlled studies in patients with macular oedema secondary to CRVO (COPERNICUS and GALILEO) with a total of 358 patients treated and evaluable for efficacy (217 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 22 to 89 years with a mean of 64 years. In the CRVO studies, approximately 52% (112/217) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 18% (38/217) were 75 years of age or older. In both studies, patients were randomly assigned in a 3:2 ratio to either 2 mg Eylea administered every 4 weeks (2Q4), or the control group receiving sham injections every 4 weeks for a total of 6 injections.

After 6 consecutive monthly injections, patients received treatment only if they met pre-specified retreatment criteria, except for patients in the control group in the GALILEO study who continued to receive sham (control to control) until week 52. From this timepoint all patients were treated if pre-specified criteria were met.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24 compared to baseline. A secondary efficacy variable was change in visual acuity at week 24 compared to baseline.

The difference between treatment groups was statistically significant in favour of Eylea in both studies. The maximal improvement in visual acuity was achieved at month 3 with subsequent stabilisation of visual acuity and CRT until month 6. The statistically significant difference was maintained through week 52.

Detailed results from the analysis of both studies are shown in Table 3 and Figure 2 below.

**Table 3:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24, week 52 and week 76/100 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF<sup>C</sup>) in COPERNICUS and GALILEO studies

Efficacy Outcomes	COPERNICUS						GALILEO					
	24 Weeks		52 Weeks		100 Weeks		24 Weeks		52 Weeks		76 Weeks	
	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 114)	Control (N= 73)	Eylea 2 mg (N = 114)	Control <sup>E</sup> (N =73)	Eylea <sup>F</sup> 2 mg (N= 114)	Control <sup>E,F</sup> (N=73)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 103)	Control (N = 68)	Eylea 2 mg (N = 103)	Control (N = 68)	Eylea <sup>G</sup> 2 mg (N = 103)	Control <sup>G</sup> (N = 68)
Proportion of patients with $\geq 15$ letters gain from baseline	56%	12%	55%	30%	49.1%	23.3%	60%	22%	60%	32%	57.3%	29.4%
Weighted difference <sup>A,B,E</sup> (95% CI) p-value	44.8% (33.0, 56.6) p < 0.0001		25.9% (11.8, 40.1) p = 0.0006		26.7% (13.1, 40.3) p=0.0003		38.3% (24.4, 52.1) p < 0.0001		27.9% (13.0, 42.7) p = 0.0004		28.0% (13.3, 42.6) p=0.0004	
Mean change in BCVA <sup>C</sup> as measured by ETDRS <sup>C</sup> letter score from baseline (SD)	17.3 (12.8)	-4.0 (18.0)	16.2 (17.4)	3.8 (17.1)	13.0 (17.7)	1.5 (17.7)	18.0 (12.2)	3.3 (14.1)	16.9 (14.8)	3.8 (18.1)	13.7 (17.8)	6.2 (17.7)
Difference in LS mean <sup>A,C,D,E</sup> (95% CI) p-value	21.7 (17.4, 26.0) p < 0.0001		12.7 (7.7, 17.7) p < 0.0001		11.8 (6.7, 17.0) p < 0.0001		14.7 (10.8, 18.7) p < 0.0001		13.2 (8.2, 18.2) p < 0.0001		7.6 (2.1, 13.1) p=0.0070	

A) Difference is Eylea 2 mg Q4 weeks minus control

B) Difference and confidence interval (CI) are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category ( $>20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )

C) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity

ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study

LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward

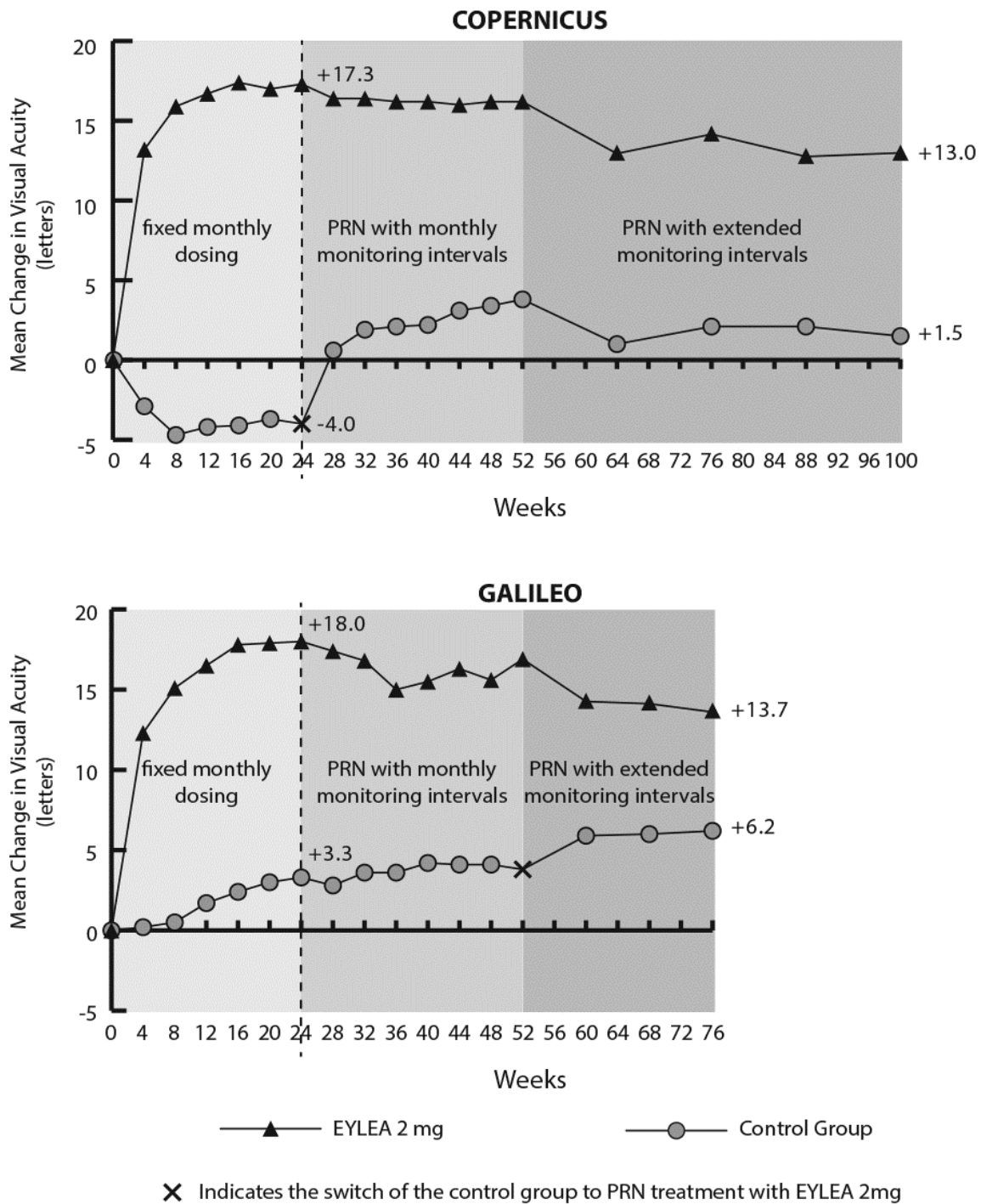


SD: Standard deviation

LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA

- D) LS mean difference and confidence interval based on an ANCOVA model with factors treatment group, region (America vs. rest of the world for COPERNICUS and Europe vs. Asia/Pacific for GALILEO) and baseline BCVA category ( $>20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )
- E) In COPERNICUS study, control group patients could receive Eylea on an as-needed basis as frequently as every 4 weeks during week 24 to week 52; patients had visits every 4 weeks.
- F) In COPERNICUS study, both control group and Eylea 2 mg patients received Eylea 2 mg on an as-needed basis as frequently as every 4 weeks starting from week 52 to week 96; patients had mandatory quarterly visits but may have been seen as frequently as every 4 weeks if necessary.
- G) In GALILEO study, both control group and Eylea 2 mg patients received Eylea 2 mg on an as-needed basis every 8 weeks starting from week 52 to week 68; patients had mandatory visits every 8 weeks.

**Figure 2:** Mean Change from Baseline to Week 76/100 in Visual Acuity by Treatment Group for the COPERNICUS and GALILEO Studies (Full Analysis Set)



In GALILEO, 86.4% (n=89) of the Eylea group and 79.4% (n=54) of the sham group had perfused CRVO at baseline. At week 24, this was 91.8% (n=89) in the Eylea group and 85.5% (n=47) in the sham group. These proportions were maintained at week 76, with 84.3% (n=75) in the Eylea group and 84.0% (n=42) in the sham group.

In COPERNICUS, 67.5% (n = 77) of the Eylea group and 68.5% (n = 50) of the sham group had perfused CRVO at baseline. At week 24, this was 87.4% (n = 90) in the Eylea group and 58.6% (n = 34) in the sham group. These proportions were maintained at week 100 with 76.8% (n = 76) in the Eylea group and 78% (n = 39) in the sham group. Patients in the sham group were eligible to receive Eylea from week 24.

The beneficial effect of Eylea treatment on visual function was similar in the baseline subgroups of perfused and non-perfused patients. Treatment effects in other evaluable subgroups (e.g. age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity, CRVO duration) in each study were in general consistent with the results in the overall populations.

In combined data analysis of GALILEO and COPERNICUS, Eylea demonstrated clinically meaningful changes from baseline in pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25). The magnitude of these changes was similar to that seen in published studies, which corresponded to a 15-letter gain in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA).

#### *Macular oedema secondary to BRVO*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled study in patients with macular oedema secondary to BRVO (VIBRANT) which included Hemi-Retinal Vein Occlusion. A total of 181 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (91 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 42 to 94 years with a mean of 65 years. In the BRVO study, approximately 58% (53/91) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 23% (21/91) were 75 years of age or older. In the study, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to either 2 mg Eylea administered every 8 weeks following 6 initial monthly injections or laser photocoagulation administered at baseline (laser control group). Patients in the laser control group could receive additional laser photocoagulation (called 'rescue laser treatment') beginning at week 12 with a minimum interval of 12 weeks. Based on pre-specified criteria, patients in the laser group could receive rescue treatment with Eylea 2 mg from week 24, administered every 4 weeks for 3 months followed by every 8 weeks.

In the VIBRANT study, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA at week 24 compared to baseline and the Eylea group was superior to laser control.

A secondary efficacy endpoint was change in visual acuity at week 24 compared to baseline, which was statistically significant in favour of Eylea in the VIBRANT study. The course of visual improvement was rapid and peaked at 3 months with maintenance of the effect until month 12.

In the laser group 67 patients received rescue treatment with Eylea beginning at week 24 (Active Control/ Eylea 2 mg group), which resulted in improvement of visual acuity by about 5 letters from week 24 to 52.

Detailed results from the analysis of the VIBRANT study are shown in Table 4 and Figure 3 below.

**Table 4:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24 and week 52 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in VIBRANT study

Efficacy Outcomes	VIBRANT			
	24 Weeks		52 Weeks	
	Eylea 2mg Q4 (N = 91)	Active Control (laser) (N = 90)	Eylea 2mg Q8 (N = 91) <sup>D)</sup>	Active Control (laser)/Eylea 2mg <sup>E)</sup> (N = 90)
Proportion of patients with $\geq 15$ letters gain from Baseline (%)	52.7%	26.7%	57.1%	41.1%
Weighted Difference <sup>A,B)</sup> (%)	26.6%		16.2%	
(95% CI)	(13.0, 40.1)		(2.0, 30.5)	
p-value	p=0.0003		p=0.0296	
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from Baseline (SD)	17.0 (11.9)	6.9 (12.9)	17.1 (13.1)	12.2 (11.9)
Difference in LS mean <sup>A,C)</sup>	10.5		5.2	
(95% CI)	(7.1, 14.0)		(1.7, 8.7)	
p-value	p<0.0001		p=0.0035 <sup>F)</sup>	

A) Difference is Eylea 2 mg Q4 weeks minus Laser Control

B) Difference and 95% CI are calculated using Mantel-Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted for region (North America vs. Japan) and baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ )

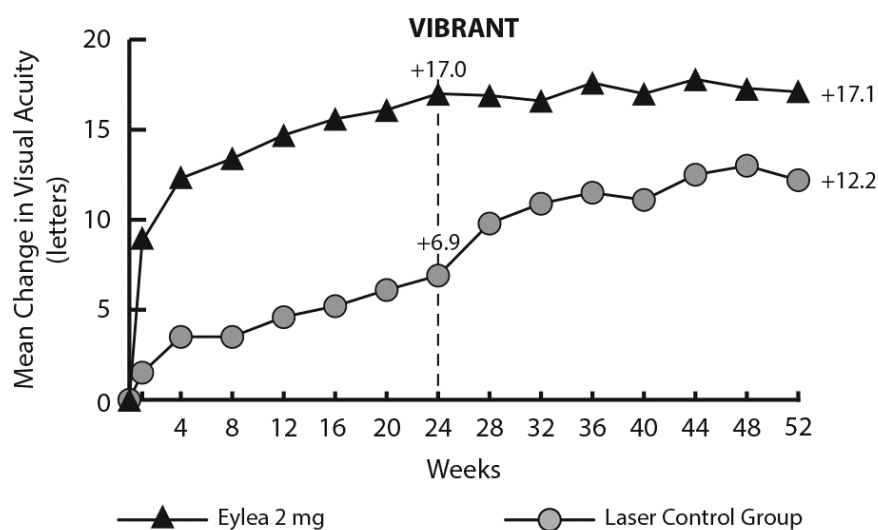
C) LS mean difference and 95% CI based on an ANCOVA model with treatment group, baseline BCVA category ( $> 20/200$  and  $\leq 20/200$ ) and region (North America vs. Japan) as fixed effects, and baseline BCVA as covariate.

D) From week 24 on the treatment interval in the Eylea treatment group was extended for all subjects from 4 weeks to 8 weeks through week 48.

E) Beginning at week 24 subjects in the Laser Group could receive rescue treatment with Eylea, if they met at least one pre-specified eligibility criterion. At total of 67 subjects in this group received Eylea rescue treatment. The fixed regimen for Eylea rescue was three times Eylea 2 mg every 4 weeks followed by injections every 8 weeks.

F) Nominal p-value

**Figure 3:** Mean Change in BCVA as Measured by ETDRS Letter Score from Baseline to Week 52 in VIBRANT Study



At baseline, the proportion of perfused patients in the Eylea and laser groups was 60% and 68%, respectively. At week 24 these proportions were 80% and 67%, respectively. In the Eylea group the proportion of perfused patients was maintained through week 52. In the laser group, where patients were eligible for rescue treatment with Eylea from week 24, the proportion of perfused patients increased to 78% by week 52.

#### Diabetic macular oedema

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in two randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled studies in patients with DME (VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>). A total of 862 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy, 576 with Eylea. Patient ages ranged from 23 to 87 years with a mean of 63 years. In the DME studies, approximately 47% (268/576) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 9% (52/576) were 75 years of age or older. The majority of patients in both studies had Type II diabetes.

In both studies, patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 dosing regimens:

- 1) Eylea administered 2 mg every 8 weeks following 5 initial monthly injections (Eylea 2Q8);
- 2) Eylea administered 2 mg every 4 weeks (Eylea 2Q4); and
- 3) macular laser photocoagulation (active control).

Beginning at week 24, patients meeting a pre-specified threshold of vision loss were eligible to receive additional treatment: patients in the Eylea groups could receive laser and patients in the control group could receive Eylea.

In both studies, the primary efficacy endpoint was the mean change from baseline in BCVA at week 52 and both Eylea 2Q8 and Eylea 2Q4 groups demonstrated statistical significance and were superior to the control group. This benefit was maintained through week 100.

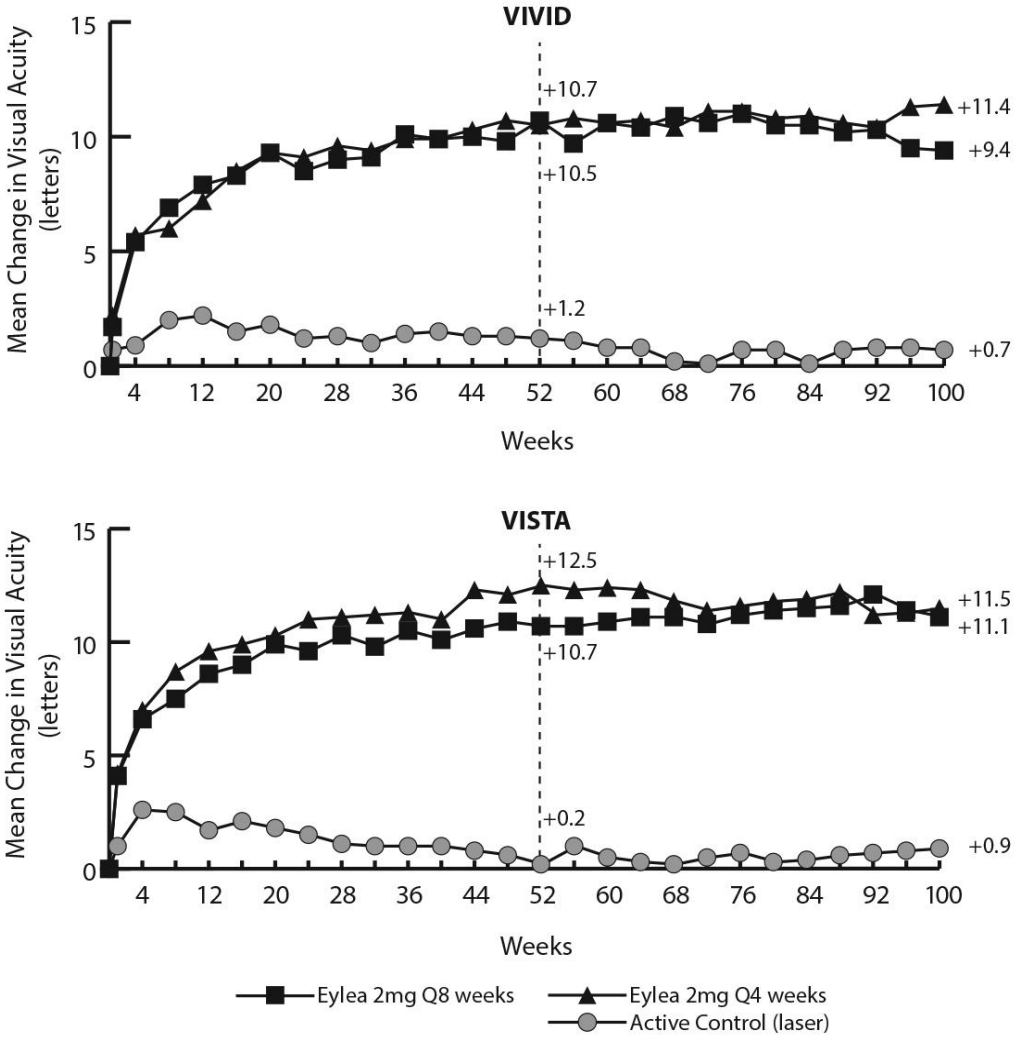
Detailed results from the analysis of the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies are shown in Table 5 and Figure 4 below.

**Table 5:** Efficacy outcomes at week 52 and week 100 (Full Analysis Set with LOCF) in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies

Efficacy Outcomes	VIVID <sup>DME</sup>						VISTA <sup>DME</sup>					
	52 Weeks			100 Weeks			52 Weeks			100 Weeks		
	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 135)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 136)	Active Control (laser) (N = 132)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 135)	Eylea 2mg Q4 (N=136)	Active Control (laser) (N = 132)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 151)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N = 154)	Active Control (laser) (N = 154)	Eylea 2 mg Q8 <sup>A</sup> (N = 151)	Eylea 2 mg Q4 (N=154)	Active Control (laser) (N = 154)
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS <sup>E</sup> letter score from Baseline	10.7	10.5	1.2	9.4	11.4	0.7	10.7	12.5	0.2	11.1	11.5	0.9
Difference in LS mean <sup>B,C,E</sup> (97.5% CI)	9.1 (6.3, 11.8)	9.3 (6.5, 12.0)		8.2 (5.2, 11.3)	10.7 (7.6, 13.8)		10.45 (7.7, 13.2)	12.19 (9.4, 15.0)		10.1 (7.0, 13.3)	10.6 (7.1, 14.2)	
Proportion of patients with ≥ 15 letters gain from Baseline	33%	32%	9%	31.1%	38.2%	12.1%	31%	42%	8%	33.1%	38.3%	13.0%
Adjusted Difference <sup>D,C,E</sup> (97.5% CI)	24% (13.5, 34.9)	23% (12.6, 33.9)		19.0% (8.0, 29.9)	26.1% (14.8, 37.5)		23% (13.5, 33.1)	34% (24.1, 44.4)		20.1% (9.6, 30.6)	25.8% (15.1, 36.6)	

- <sup>A</sup> After treatment initiation with 5 monthly injections
- <sup>B</sup> LS mean and CI based on an ANCOVA model with baseline BCVA measurement as a covariate and a factor for treatment group. Additionally, region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) had been included as factor for VIVID<sup>DME</sup>, and history of MI and/or CVA as a factor for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>.
- <sup>C</sup> Difference is Eylea group minus active control (laser) group
- <sup>D</sup> Difference with confidence interval (CI) and statistical test is calculated using Mantel-Haenszel weighting scheme adjusted by region (Europe/Australia vs. Japan) for VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and medical history of MI or CVA for VISTA<sup>DME</sup>
- <sup>E</sup> BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward  
LS: Least square means derived from ANCOVA  
CI: Confidence interval

**Figure 4:** Mean Change in BCVA as Measured by ETDRS Letter Score from Baseline to Week 100 in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> Studies



Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline HbA1c, baseline visual acuity, prior anti-VEGF therapy) in each study and in the combined analysis were generally consistent with the results in the overall populations.

In the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup> studies, 36 (9%) and 197 (43%) patients received prior anti-VEGF therapy, respectively, with a 3-month or longer washout period. Treatment effects in the subgroup of patients who had previously been treated with a VEGF inhibitor were similar to those seen in patients who were VEGF inhibitor naïve.

Patients with bilateral disease were eligible to receive anti-VEGF treatment in their fellow eye if assessed necessary by the physician. In the VISTA<sup>DME</sup> study, 217 (70.7%) of Eylea patients received bilateral Eylea injections until week100; in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, 97 (35.8%) of Eylea patients received a different anti-VEGF treatment in their fellow eye.

An independent comparative trial (DRCR.net Protocol T) utilised a flexible dosing regimen based on strict OCT and vision re-treatment criteria. In the aflibercept treatment group (n = 224) at week 52, this treatment regimen resulted in patients receiving a mean of 9.2 injections, which is similar to the administered number of doses in the Eylea 2Q8 group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>, while overall efficacy of the aflibercept treatment group in Protocol T was comparable to the Eylea 2Q8 group in VIVID<sup>DME</sup> and VISTA<sup>DME</sup>. A 13.3 mean letter gain with 42% of patients gaining at least 15 letters in



vision from baseline was observed in Protocol T. Safety outcomes demonstrated that overall incidences of ocular and non-ocular adverse events (including ATEs) were comparable across all treatment groups in each of the studies and between the studies.

VIOLET, a 100-week multicentre, randomised, open-label, active controlled study in patients with DME compared three different dosing regimens of Eylea 2 mg for treatment of DME after at least one year of treatment at fixed intervals, where treatment was initiated with 5 consecutive monthly doses followed by dosing every 2 months. The study evaluated non-inferiority of Eylea 2 mg dosed according to a treat-and-extend regimen (2T&E where injections intervals were kept at a minimum of 8 weeks and gradually extended based on clinical and anatomical outcomes) and Eylea 2 mg dosed as needed (2PRN where patients were observed every 4 weeks and injected when needed based on clinical and anatomical outcomes), compared to Eylea 2 mg dosed every 8 weeks (2Q8) for the second and third year of treatment.

The primary efficacy endpoint (change in BCVA from baseline to week 52) was  $0.5 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.7 \pm 6.8$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.4 \pm 6.7$  letters in the 2Q8 group, achieving statistical non-inferiority ( $p < 0.0001$  for both comparisons; NI margin 4 letters). The changes in BCVA from baseline to week 100 were consistent with the week 52 results:  $-0.1 \pm 9.1$  letters in the 2T&E group and  $1.8 \pm 9.0$  letters in the 2PRN group compared to  $0.1 \pm 7.2$  letters in the 2Q8 group. The mean number of injections over 100 weeks were 12.3, 10.0 and 11.5 for 2Q8fix, 2T&E and 2PRN, respectively.

Ocular and systemic safety profiles in all 3 treatment groups were similar to those observed in the pivotal studies VIVID and VISTA.

In the 2T&E group, the increments and decrements for the injection intervals were at the investigator's discretion; increments of 2 weeks were recommended in the study.

#### *Myopic choroidal neovascularisation*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, sham-controlled study in treatment-naïve, Asian patients with myopic CNV. A total of 121 patients were treated and evaluable for efficacy (90 with Eylea). Patient ages ranged from 27 to 83 years with a mean of 58 years. In the myopic CNV study, approximately 36% (33/91) of the patients randomised to treatment with Eylea were 65 years of age or older, and approximately 10% (9/91) were 75 years of age or older.

Patients were randomly assigned in a 3:1 ratio to receive either 2 mg Eylea intravitreally or sham injections administered once at study start with additional injections given monthly in case of disease persistence or recurrence until week 24, when the primary endpoint was assessed. At week 24, patients initially randomised to sham were eligible to receive the first dose of Eylea. Following this, patients in both groups continued to be eligible for additional injections in case of disease persistence or recurrence.

The difference between treatment groups was statistically significant in favour of Eylea for the primary endpoint (change in BCVA) and confirmatory secondary efficacy endpoint (proportion of patients who gained 15 letters in BCVA) at week 24 compared to baseline. Differences for both endpoints were maintained through week 48.

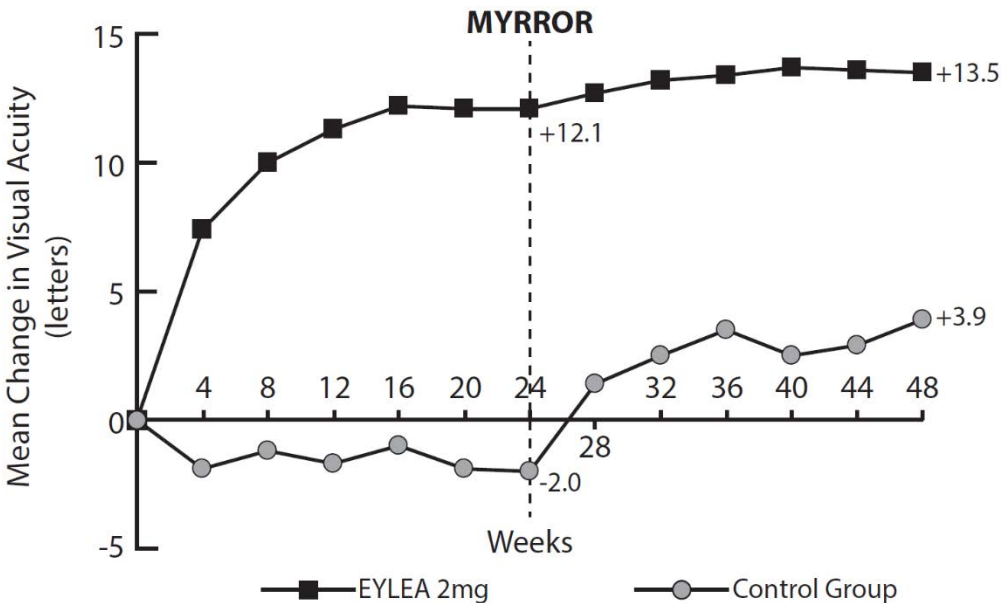
Detailed results from the analysis of the MYRROR study are shown in Table 6 and Figure 5 below.

**Table 6:** Efficacy outcomes at week 24 (primary analysis) and week 48 in MYRROR study (Full Analysis Set with LOCF<sup>A)</sup>)

Efficacy Outcomes	MYRROR			
	24 Weeks		48 Weeks	
	Eylea 2mg (N = 90)	Sham (N = 31)	Eylea 2mg (N = 90)	Sham/ Eylea 2mg (N = 31)
Mean change in BCVA <sup>B)</sup> as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (SD) <sup>B)</sup>	12.1 (8.3)	-2.0 (9.7)	13.5 (8.8)	3.9 (14.3)
Difference in LS mean <sup>C,D,E)</sup> (95% CI)	14.1 (10.8, 17.4)		9.5 (5.4, 13.7)	
Proportion of patients with ≥15 letters gain from baseline	38.9%	9.7%	50.0%	29.0%
Weighted difference <sup>D, F)</sup> (95% CI)	29.2% (14.4, 44.0)		21.0% (1.9, 40.1)	

A) LOCF: Last Observation Carried Forward  
 B) BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity  
 ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study  
 SD: Standard Deviation  
 C) LS mean: Least square means derived from ANCOVA model  
 D) CI: Confidence Interval  
 E) LS mean difference and 95% CI based on an ANCOVA model with treatment group and country (country designations) as fixed effects, and baseline BCVA as covariant.  
 F) Difference and 95% CI are calculated using Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test adjusted for country (country designations)

**Figure 5:** Mean Change from Baseline to Week 48 in Visual Acuity by Treatment Group for the MYRROR Study (Full Analysis Set, LOCF)



## Paediatric population

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with Eylea in all subsets of the paediatric population in wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV populations (see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use).

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

Eylea is administered directly into the vitreous to exert local effects in the eye.

### Absorption / Distribution

Aflibercept is slowly absorbed from the eye into the systemic circulation after intravitreal administration and is predominately observed in the systemic circulation as an inactive, stable complex with VEGF; however only “free aflibercept” is able to bind endogenous VEGF.

In a pharmacokinetic sub-study in 6 neovascular wet AMD patients with frequent sampling, maximum plasma concentrations of free aflibercept (systemic  $C_{max}$ ) were low, with a mean of approximately 0.02 microgram/mL (range 0 to 0.054) within 1 to 3 days after a 2 mg intravitreal injection, and were undetectable two weeks following dosage in almost all patients. Aflibercept does not accumulate in the plasma when administered intravitreally every 4 weeks.

The mean maximum plasma concentration of free aflibercept is approximately 50 to 500 times below the aflibercept concentration required to inhibit the biologic activity of systemic VEGF by 50% in animal models, in which blood pressure changes were observed after circulating levels of free aflibercept attained approximately 10 microgram/mL and returned to baseline when levels fell below approximately 1 microgram/mL. It is estimated that after intravitreal administration of 2 mg to patients, the mean maximum plasma concentration of free aflibercept is more than 100-fold lower than the concentration of aflibercept required to half-maximally bind systemic VEGF (2.91 microgram/mL) in a study of healthy volunteers. Therefore, systemic pharmacodynamic effects such as blood pressure changes are unlikely.

In pharmacokinetic sub-studies in patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME or myopic CNV mean  $C_{max}$  of free aflibercept in plasma were similar with values in the range of 0.03 to 0.05 microgram/mL and individual values not exceeding 0.14 microgram/mL. Thereafter, plasma concentrations of free aflibercept declined to values below or close to the lower limit of quantitation generally within one week; undetectable concentrations were reached before the next administration after 4 weeks in all patients.

### Elimination

As Eylea is a protein-based therapeutic, no metabolism studies have been conducted.

Free aflibercept binds VEGF to form a stable, inert complex. As with other large proteins, both free and bound aflibercept are expected to be cleared by proteolytic catabolism.

### Renal impairment

No special studies in patients with renal impairment have been conducted with Eylea.

Pharmacokinetic analysis of patients in the VIEW2 study, of which 40% had renal impairment (24% mild, 15% moderate, and 1% severe), revealed no differences with respect to plasma concentrations of active drug after intravitreal administration every 4 or 8 weeks.

Similar results were seen in patients with CRVO in the GALILEO study, in patients with DME in the VIVID<sup>DME</sup> study, and in patients with myopic CNV in the MYRROR study.

### 5.3 Preclinical safety data

Effects in non-clinical studies on repeated dose toxicity were observed only at systemic exposures considered substantially in excess of the maximum human exposure after intravitreal administration at the intended clinical dose indicating little relevance to clinical use.

Erosions and ulcerations of the respiratory epithelium in nasal turbinates in monkeys treated with aflibercept intravitreally were observed at systemic exposures in excess of the maximum human exposure. The systemic exposure based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC for free aflibercept were approximately 200 and 700-fold higher, respectively, when compared to corresponding values observed in humans after an intravitreal dose of 2 mg. At the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) of 0.5 mg/eye in monkeys the systemic exposure was 42- and 56-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC, respectively.

No studies have been conducted on the mutagenic or carcinogenic potential of aflibercept.

An effect of aflibercept on intrauterine development was shown in embryo-foetal development studies in pregnant rabbits with intravenous (3 to 60 mg/kg) as well as subcutaneous (0.1 to 1 mg/kg) administration. The maternal NOAEL was at the dose of 3 mg/kg or 1 mg/kg, respectively. A developmental NOAEL was not identified. At the 0.1 mg/kg dose, the systemic exposures based on  $C_{max}$  and cumulative AUC for free aflibercept were approximately 17- and 10-fold higher, respectively, when compared to corresponding values observed in humans after an intravitreal dose of 2 mg.

Effects on male and female fertility were assessed as part of a 6-month study in monkeys with intravenous administration of aflibercept at doses ranging from 3 to 30 mg/kg. Absent or irregular menses associated with alterations in female reproductive hormone levels and changes in sperm morphology and motility were observed at all dose levels. Based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC for free aflibercept observed at the 3 mg/kg intravenous dose, the systemic exposures were approximately 4,900-fold and 1,500-fold higher, respectively, than the exposure observed in humans after an intravitreal dose of 2 mg. All changes were reversible.

## 6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

### 6.1 List of excipients

Polysorbate 20 (E 432)  
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate, monohydrate (for pH adjustment)  
Disodium hydrogen phosphate, heptahydrate (for pH adjustment)  
Sodium chloride  
Sucrose  
Water for injections

### 6.2 Incompatibilities

In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

### 6.3 Shelf life

2 years

### 6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C to 8 °C).  
Do not freeze.  
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

The unopened vial may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours. After opening the vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.

### 6.5 Nature and contents of container

Solution in a vial (type I glass) with a stopper (elastomeric rubber), and an 18 G filter needle. Each vial contains an extractable volume of at least 0.1 mL. Pack size of 1 vial + 1 filter needle.

### 6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

The vial is for single use in one eye only.

The vial contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL). The excess volume must be discarded prior to administration.

The solution should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or discolouration or any variation in physical appearance prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the medicinal product.

#### Filter needle:

BD Blunt Filter (Fill) Needle, not for skin injection.

Do not autoclave the BD Blunt Filter (Fill) Needle.

The filter needle is non-pyrogenic. Do not use it if individual packaging is damaged.

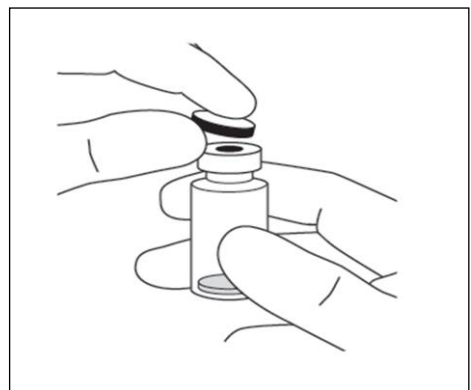
Discard the used BD Blunt Filter (Fill) Needle in approved sharps collector.

Caution: Re-use of the filter needle may lead to infection or other illness/injury.

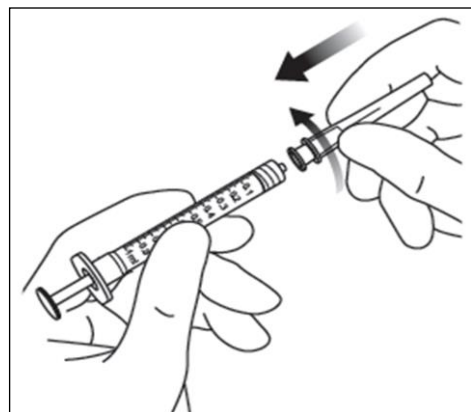
For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

#### *Instructions for use of vial:*

1. Remove the plastic cap and disinfect the outer part of the rubber stopper of the vial.

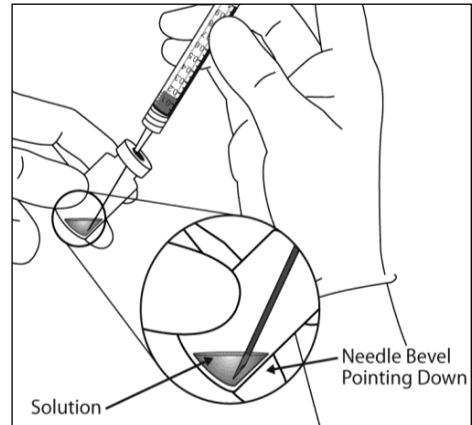
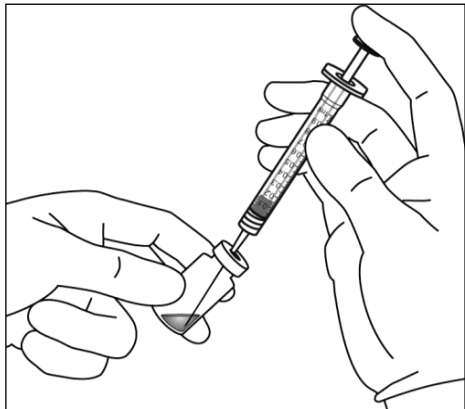


2. Attach the 18 G, 5-micron filter needle supplied in the carton to a 1-mL sterile, Luer-lock syringe.

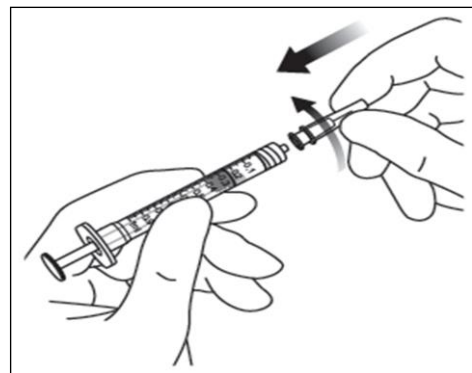


3. Push the filter needle into the centre of the vial stopper until the needle is completely inserted into the vial and the tip touches the bottom or bottom edge of the vial.

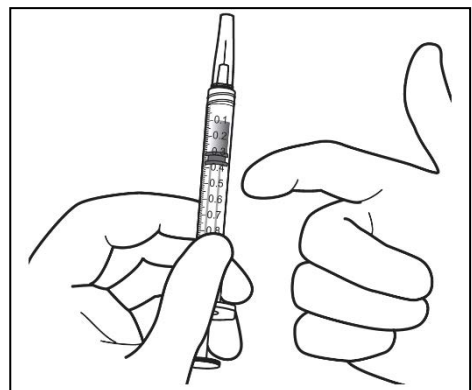
- Using aseptic technique withdraw all of the Eylea vial contents into the syringe, keeping the vial in an upright position, slightly inclined to ease complete withdrawal. To deter the introduction of air, ensure the bevel of the filter needle is submerged into the liquid. Continue to tilt the vial during withdrawal keeping the bevel of the filter needle submerged in the liquid.



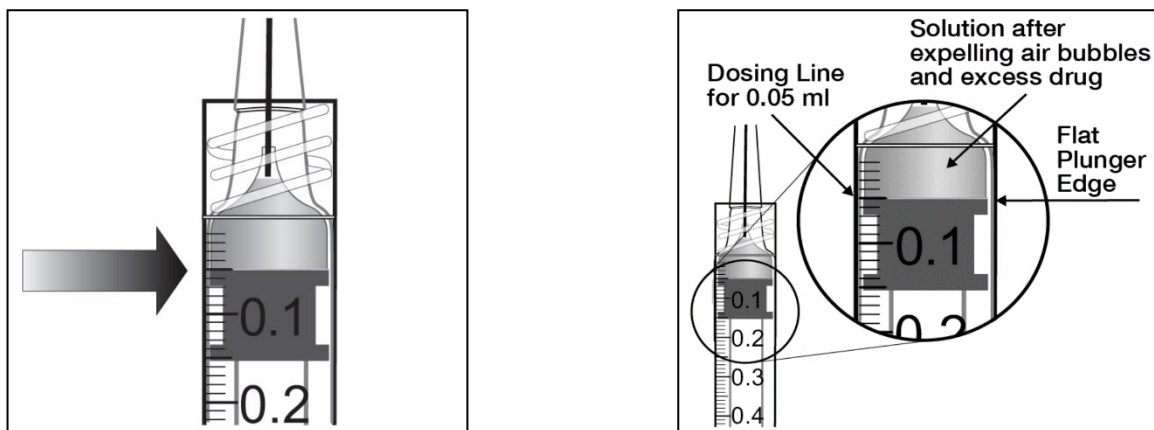
- Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial in order to completely empty the filter needle.
- Remove the filter needle and properly dispose of it.  
Note: Filter needle is not to be used for intravitreal injection.
- Using aseptic technique, firmly twist a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.



- Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.



9. Eliminate all bubbles and expel excess medicinal product by slowly depressing the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks 0.05 mL on the syringe.



10. The vial is for single use only. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## 7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

## 8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/12/797/002

## 9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 22 November 2012  
Date of latest renewal: 13 July 2017

## 10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

## 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Eylea 114.3 mg/ml solution for injection

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 ml solution for injection contains 114.3 mg aflibercept\*.

Each vial contains 30.1 mg aflibercept in 0.263 ml solution. This provides a usable amount to deliver a single dose of 0.07 ml containing 8 mg aflibercept.

\* Aflibercept is a fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) receptors 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1 and produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection (injection)

Clear to slightly opalescent, colourless to pale yellow, iso-osmotic solution, pH 5.8.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Eylea is indicated in adults for the treatment of

- neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) (see section 5.1)
- visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DME) (see section 5.1).

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Eylea must only be administered by a qualified physician experienced in intravitreal injections.

#### Posology

The recommended dose is 8 mg aflibercept, equivalent to 0.07 ml solution. The posology is the same for the nAMD and DME indications. The 8 mg dose requires use of the Eylea 114.3 mg/ml vial.

Eylea treatment is initiated with 1 injection per month for 3 consecutive doses. Injection intervals may then be extended up to every 4 months based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes. Subsequently, the treatment intervals may be further extended up to 5 months, such as with a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, while maintaining stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes (see section 5.1).

If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly based on the physician's discretion. The shortest interval between 2 injections is 2 months in the maintenance phase.

Eylea at monthly doses of 8 mg has not been studied for more than 3 consecutive doses.

The frequency of monitoring visits should be based on the patient's status and at the physician's discretion. For events in which treatment should be withheld see section 4.4.



## Special populations

### *Renal or hepatic impairment*

No specific studies in patients with renal or hepatic impairment have been conducted. Available data do not suggest a need for a dose adjustment with Eylea in these patients (see section 5.2).

### *Elderly*

Available data do not suggest a need for a dose adjustment with Eylea in these patients.

### *Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml in children and adolescents below 18 years have not been established. There is no relevant use of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml in the paediatric population in the nAMD and DME indications.

## Method of administration

Eylea is for intravitreal injection only.

Intravitreal injections must be carried out according to medical standards and applicable guidelines by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections. In general, adequate anaesthesia and asepsis, including topical broad spectrum microbicide (e.g. povidone iodine applied to the periocular skin, eyelid and ocular surface), have to be ensured. Surgical hand disinfection, sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent) are recommended.

The injection needle should be inserted 3.5 to 4.0 mm posterior to the limbus into the vitreous cavity, avoiding the horizontal meridian and aiming towards the centre of the globe. The injection volume of 0.07 ml is then delivered. A different scleral site should be used for subsequent injections.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure. Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, sterile equipment for paracentesis should be available.

Following intravitreal injection, patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis (e.g. eye pain, redness of the eye, photophobia, blurring of vision) without delay.

Each vial should only be used for the treatment of a single eye.

After injection, discard any unused product or waste material in accordance with local requirements.

For handling of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

## **4.3 Contraindications**

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Ocular or periocular infection.
- Active severe intraocular inflammation.

## **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

### Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

### Intravitreal injection-related reactions

Intravitreal injections, including those with Eylea, have been associated with endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, retinal detachment, retinal tear and traumatic cataract (see section 4.8). Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering Eylea. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or any of the above mentioned events without delay and should be managed appropriately.

### Intraocular pressure increased

Transient increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 60 minutes of an intravitreal injection, including those with Eylea (see section 4.8). Both the intraocular pressure and perfusion of the optic nerve head must therefore be monitored and managed appropriately. Special precaution is needed in patients with poorly controlled glaucoma (do not inject Eylea while the intraocular pressure is  $\geq 30$  mmHg).

### Immunogenicity

As this is a therapeutic protein, there is a potential for immunogenicity with aflibercept (see section 5.1). Patients should be instructed to report any signs or symptoms of intraocular inflammation, e.g. pain, photophobia, or redness, which may be a clinical sign attributable to hypersensitivity.

### Systemic effects

Systemic adverse events including non-ocular haemorrhages and arterial thromboembolic events have been reported following intravitreal injection of VEGF inhibitors and there is a theoretical risk that these may relate to VEGF inhibition (see section 4.8).

There are limited data on safety in the treatment of patients with nAMD and DME with a history of stroke, transient ischaemic attacks or myocardial infarction within the last 6 months. Caution should be exercised when treating such patients.

### Bilateral treatment

The safety and efficacy of bilateral treatment with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml per eye have not been studied (see section 5.1). If bilateral treatment is performed at the same time this could lead to an increased systemic exposure, which could increase the risk of systemic adverse events.

### Concomitant use of other anti-VEGF

There are limited data available on the concomitant use of Eylea with other anti-VEGF medicinal products (systemic or ocular).

### Withholding treatment

Treatment should be withheld in the event of:

- a decrease in best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) of  $\geq 30$  letters compared with the last assessment of visual acuity
- a rhegmatogenous retinal detachment or stage 3 or 4 macular holes
- a retinal break
- a subretinal haemorrhage involving the centre of the fovea, or, if the size of the haemorrhage is  $\geq 50$  % of the total lesion area
- performed or planned intraocular surgery within the previous or next 28 days.

### Retinal pigment epithelial tear

Risk factors associated with the development of a retinal pigment epithelial tear after anti-VEGF therapy for nAMD include a large and/or high pigment epithelial retinal detachment. When initiating aflibercept therapy, caution should be used in patients with these risk factors for retinal pigment epithelial tears.

### Women of childbearing potential

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 4 months after the last intravitreal injection with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml (see section 4.6).

### Populations with limited data

There is only limited experience with Eylea treatment in diabetic patients with an HbA1c over 12 % or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Eylea has not been studied in patients with active systemic infections or in patients with concurrent eye conditions such as retinal detachment or macular hole. There is also no experience of treatment with Eylea in diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension. This lack of information should be considered by the physician when treating such patients.

## **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

No interaction studies have been performed.

## **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

### Women of childbearing potential

Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 4 months after the last intravitreal injection with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml.

### Pregnancy

There are limited data on the use of aflibercept in pregnant women.

Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3).

Eylea 114.3 mg/ml should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus.

### Breast-feeding

Based on very limited human data, aflibercept may be excreted in human milk at low levels.

Aflibercept is a large protein molecule and the amount of medication absorbed by the infant is expected to be minimal. The effect of aflibercept on a breast-fed newborn/infant is unknown.

As a precautionary measure breast-feeding is not recommended during the use of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml.

### Fertility

There are no fertility data in humans. Results from animal studies with high systemic exposure indicate that aflibercept can impair male and female fertility (see section 5.3).

## **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Injection with Eylea has minor influence on the ability to drive and use machines due to possible temporary visual disturbance associated either with the injection or eye examination. Patients should not drive or use machines until their visual function has recovered sufficiently.

## 4.8 Undesirable effects

### Summary of the safety profile

Serious adverse reactions were cataract (8.2%), retinal haemorrhage (3.6%), intraocular pressure increased (2.8%), vitreous haemorrhage (1.2%), cataract subcapsular (0.9%), cataract nuclear (0.6%), retinal detachment (0.6%), and retinal tear (0.5%).

The most frequently observed adverse reactions in patients treated with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml were cataract (8.2%), visual acuity reduced (4.4%), vitreous floaters (4.0%), conjunctival haemorrhage (3.8%), vitreous detachment (3.7%), retinal haemorrhage (3.6%), intraocular pressure increased (2.8%), and eye pain (2.0%).

The safety profile observed in the 3 clinical studies was similar in patients treated with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml (N=1 217) and Eylea 40 mg/ml (N=556), and in patients with nAMD and DME.

### Tabulated list of adverse reactions

A total of 1 217 patients treated with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml constituted the safety population in 3 clinical phase II/III studies (CANDELA, PULSAR, PHOTON).

The safety data described below include all adverse reactions with a reasonable possibility of causality to the injection procedure or medicinal product reported.

The adverse reactions are listed by system organ class and frequency using the following convention: Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1\ 000$  to  $< 1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10\ 000$  to  $< 1/1\ 000$ ).

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

**Table 1: All treatment-emergent adverse reactions reported in patients with nAMD or DME treated with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml in phase II/III studies**

System organ class	Common	Uncommon	Rare
Immune system disorders	Hypersensitivity*		
Eye disorders	Cataract, Intraocular pressure increased, Vitreous floaters, Vitreous detachment, Vitreous haemorrhage, Retinal haemorrhage, Visual acuity reduced, Eye pain, Conjunctival haemorrhage, Punctate keratitis, Corneal abrasion	Retinal detachment, Retinal tear, Retinal pigment epithelial tear, Detachment of the retinal pigment epithelium, Uveitis, Iritis, Iridocyclitis, Vitritis, Cataract cortical, Cataract nuclear, Cataract subcapsular, Corneal erosion, Vision blurred, Injection site pain, Foreign body sensation in eyes, Lacrimation increased, Injection site haemorrhage, Conjunctival hyperaemia, Eyelid oedema, Ocular hyperaemia, Injection site irritation	Corneal oedema, Lenticular opacities, Retinal degeneration, Eyelid irritation

\* Reports of hypersensitivity included rash, pruritus, urticaria.

The following adverse reactions of Eylea 40 mg/ml are also considered expected with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml but have not been reported in the clinical studies with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml: abnormal sensation in eye, corneal epithelium defect, anterior chamber flare, endophthalmitis, blindness, traumatic cataract, hypopyon, severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions.

#### Description of selected adverse reactions

##### *Product-class-related adverse reactions*

Arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) are adverse reactions potentially related to systemic VEGF inhibition. There is a theoretical risk of ATEs, including stroke and myocardial infarction, following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors. A low incidence rate of ATEs was observed in the aflibercept clinical studies in patients with nAMD and DME. Across indications, no notable difference between the groups treated with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml and the comparator groups treated with Eylea 40 mg/ml were observed.

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#).

#### **4.9 Overdose**

Overdosing with increased injection volume may increase intraocular pressure. Therefore, in case of overdose, intraocular pressure should be monitored and, if deemed necessary by the treating physician, adequate treatment should be initiated (see sections 4.4 and 6.6).

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Ophthalmologicals / Antineovascularisation agents, ATC code: S01LA05

Aflibercept is a recombinant fusion protein consisting of portions of human VEGF receptor 1 and 2 extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human IgG1.

Aflibercept is produced in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) K1 cells by recombinant DNA technology.

#### Mechanism of action

Vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) and placental growth factor (PlGF) are members of the VEGF family of angiogenic factors that can act as potent mitogenic, chemotactic, and vascular permeability factors for endothelial cells. VEGF acts via two receptor tyrosine kinases, VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2, present on the surface of endothelial cells. PlGF binds only to VEGFR-1, which is also present on the surface of leucocytes. Excessive activation of these receptors by VEGF-A can result in pathological neovascularisation and excessive vascular permeability. PlGF can act independently to activate the VEGFR-1 to promote an inflammatory response within the retina, and is known to increase in pathological states such as nAMD, diabetic retinopathy (DR), DME, and retinal vein occlusion (RVO).

#### Pharmacodynamic effects

Aflibercept acts as a soluble decoy receptor that binds VEGF-A and PlGF with higher affinity than their natural receptors, and thereby can inhibit the binding and activation of these cognate VEGF receptors.

In animal studies, aflibercept can prevent pathological neovascularization and vascular leakage in a number of different models of ocular disease.

### nAMD

nAMD is characterised by pathological choroidal neovascularisation (CNV). Leakage of blood and fluid from CNV may cause retinal oedema and/or sub-/intra-retinal haemorrhage, resulting in loss of visual acuity.

The pharmacodynamic effects of aflibercept 114.3 mg/ml administered every 12 (8Q12) and every 16 (8Q16) weeks are described in comparison with aflibercept 40 mg/ml administered every 8 weeks (2Q8) for the nAMD indication. These effects are shown as the change in CNV size from baseline to week 12; change in total lesion area from baseline to weeks 48, 60, and 96; and change from baseline in central retinal thickness (CRT).

In the pooled group of patients treated with 8Q12 or 8Q16, reductions in CNV size (LS mean, based on a mixed model for repeated measurements [MMRM]) at week 12 were -1.63 mm<sup>2</sup> compared to -1.17 mm<sup>2</sup> for patients treated with 2Q8.

**Table 2: Pharmacodynamic parameter (full analysis set) in the PULSAR study**

Efficacy outcomes	Week	Eylea 8Q12 (N = 335)	Eylea 8Q16 (N = 338)	Eylea 2Q8 (N = 336)
<b>Change in total lesion area from baseline [mm<sup>2</sup>]</b>				
LS mean <sup>A</sup>	12	-0.55		-0.30
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	48	-0.4 (2.9)	-0.2 (3.1)	0.1 (3.6)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		-0.46 (0.19)	-0.35 (0.20)	0.09 (0.22)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.55 (-1.04, -0.06)	-0.44 (-0.94, -0.06)	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	60	-0.5 (2.8)	-0.4 (3.2)	-0.3 (3.2)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		-0.48 (0.20)	-0.54 (0.21)	-0.24 (0.20)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.24 (-0.72, 0.24)	-0.29 (-0.79, 0.20)	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	96	-0.3 (3.3)	-0.3 (3.2)	-0.2 (3.4)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		-0.43 (0.20)	-0.42 (0.20)	-0.18 (0.20)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.25 (-0.72, 0.21)	-0.24 (-0.71, 0.22)	

<sup>A</sup> LS mean, CI and p-value based on an MMRM with baseline best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) measurement as covariate, treatment group as factor, visit and stratification variables used for randomisation (geographical region, categorical baseline BCVA) as fixed factors as well as terms for the interaction between baseline BCVA and visit and for the interaction between treatment and visit.

<sup>B</sup> Absolute difference is Eylea 8Q12- or 8Q16-groups minus 2Q8-groups, respectively.

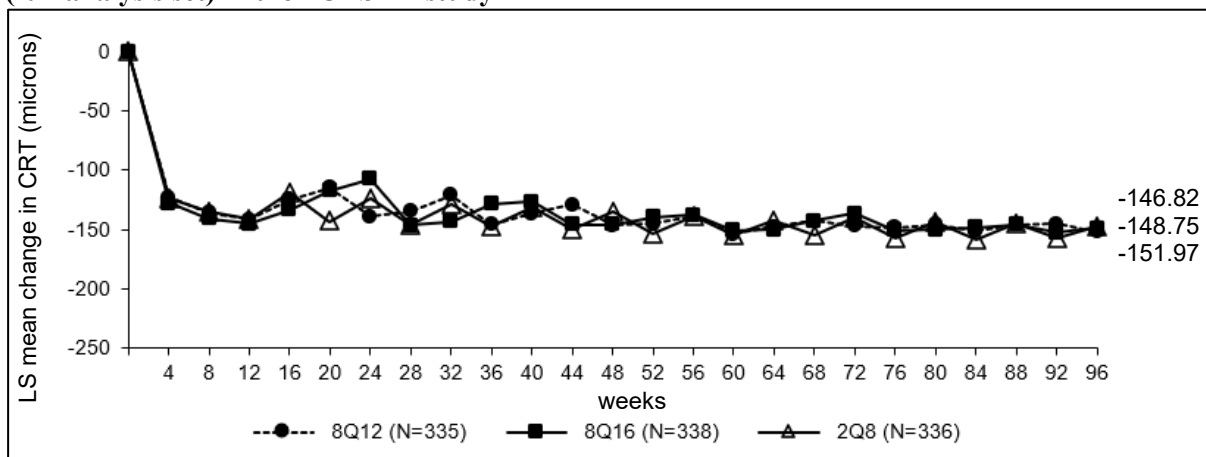
CI: Confidence interval

LS: Least square

SD: Standard deviation

SE: Standard error

**Figure 1: LS mean change in central retinal thickness (CRT) from baseline through week 96 (full analysis set) in the PULSAR study**



DME

Diabetic macular oedema is characterised by increased vasopermeability and damage to the retinal capillaries which may result in loss of visual acuity.

The pharmacodynamic effects of aflibercept 114.3 mg/ml administered every 12 (8Q12) and every 16 (8Q16) weeks are described in comparison with aflibercept 40 mg/ml administered every 8 weeks (2Q8) for the DME indication. These effects are shown as the change in the leakage area from baseline to weeks 48, 60, and 96.

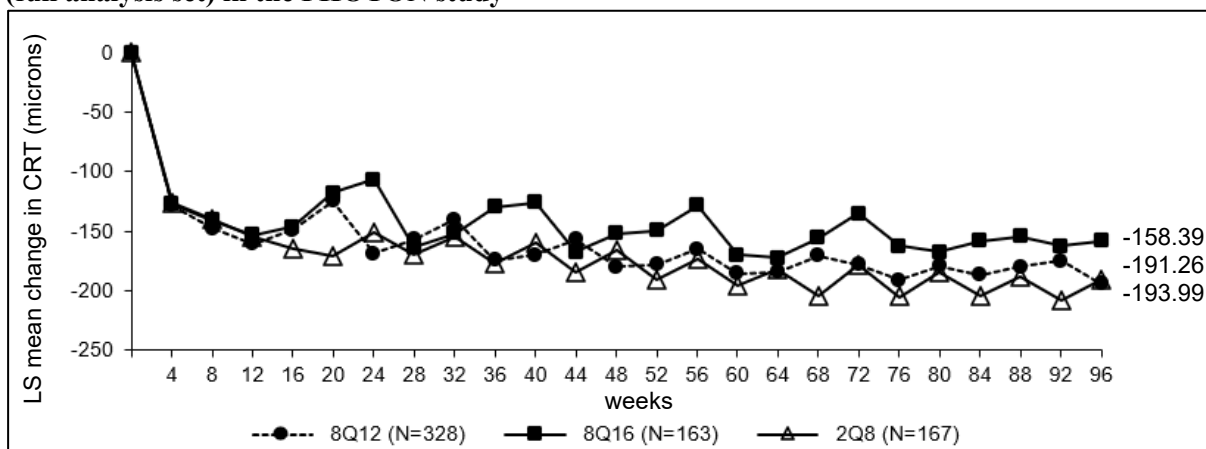
**Table 3: Pharmacodynamic parameter (full analysis set) in the PHOTON study**

Efficacy Outcomes	Week	Eylea 8Q12 (N = 328)	Eylea 8Q16 (N = 163)	Eylea 2Q8 (N = 167)
<b>Change in leakage area<sup>A</sup> from baseline [mm<sup>2</sup>]</b>				
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	48	-13.9 (13.91)	-9.4 (11.50)	-9.2 (12.11)
	60	-13.9 (13.54)	-12.0 (13.26)	-14.4 (12.89)
	96	-12.8 (10.98)	-9.4 (10.61)	-11.9 (11.26)

<sup>A</sup> based on fluorescein angiography measurement

SD: Standard deviation

**Figure 2: LS mean change in central retinal thickness (CRT) from baseline through week 96 (full analysis set) in the PHOTON study**



*Immunogenicity*

After dosing with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml for up to 96 weeks treatment-emergent antibodies to Eylea 114.3 mg/ml were detected in 2.5% to 4.4% of patients treated for DME and nAMD. No evidence of anti-drug antibodies impact on pharmacokinetics, efficacy or safety was observed.

## Clinical efficacy and safety

### nAMD

#### *Study objectives*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled study (PULSAR) in patients with treatment naïve nAMD.

The primary objective was to determine if treatment with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml at intervals of 12 (8Q12) or 16 weeks (8Q16) provides non-inferior best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) change compared to Eylea 40 mg/ml every 8 weeks in patients with nAMD.

The secondary objectives were to determine the effect of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml versus Eylea 40 mg/ml on anatomic and other visual measures of response, and to evaluate the safety, immunogenicity, and pharmacokinetics of aflibercept.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the change from baseline in BCVA measured by the early treatment diabetic retinopathy study (ETDRS) letter score at week 48.

The key secondary endpoints were the change in BCVA from baseline at week 60 and the proportion of patients with no intraretinal fluid (IRF) and no subretinal fluid (SRF) in central subfield at week 16. Further secondary endpoints were the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline at week 48, the proportion of patients achieving an ETDRS letter score of at least 69 (approximate 20/40 Snellen equivalent) at week 48, and the change from baseline in National Eye Institute Visual Functioning Questionnaire-25 (NEI-VFQ-25) total score at week 48, among others.

In the PULSAR study a total of 1 009 patients were treated. The patients were assigned in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 parallel treatment groups:

1. Eylea 114.3 mg/ml administered every 12 weeks (8Q12)
2. Eylea 114.3 mg/ml administered every 16 weeks (8Q16)
3. Eylea 40 mg/ml administered every 8 weeks (2Q8)

All patients received 3 initial injections of the assigned dose at 4-week intervals.

Per study protocol the interval of the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups was to be shortened if both of the following criteria were met:

1. >5 letters loss in BCVA from week 12, and
2. >25 microns increase in CRT from week 12 or new foveal haemorrhage or new foveal neovascularisation.

Regardless of whether patient intervals were maintained or shortened in year 1, per study protocol all patients in the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups were eligible for interval extension (by 4 weeks increments), beginning at week 52, if the following criteria were met:

1. <5 letters loss in BCVA from week 12, and
2. no fluid in the central subfield on optical coherence tomography (OCT), and
3. no new onset of foveal haemorrhage or foveal neovascularisation.

For patients who did not meet the criteria for shortening or extension of the interval, the dosing interval was maintained. The minimum interval between injections was 8 weeks in all groups.

Patients with bilateral disease were eligible to receive Eylea 40 mg/ml treatment or another anti-VEGF medicinal product in their fellow eye.

#### *Patient characteristics at baseline*

Patient ages ranged from 50 to 96 years with a mean of 74.5 years.

Approximately 92% (309/335) and 87% (295/338) of the patients randomised to the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups, respectively, were 65 years of age or older and approximately 51% (172/335) and 51% (171/338) were 75 years of age or older.



## Results

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 48 received a median (mean) of 6.0 (6.1), 5.0 (5.2) and 7.0 (6.9) injections, respectively.

At week 48, in the 8Q12-group, 79.4% of patients maintained Q12 intervals while in the 8Q16-group 76.6% of patients maintained Q16 intervals.

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 60 received a median (mean) of 7.0 (7.1), 6.0 (6.2) and 9.0 (8.8) injections, respectively.

At week 60, 43.1% of patients in the 8Q12-group were extended to a treatment interval of 16 weeks, and 38.5% of patients in the 8Q16-group were extended to a treatment interval of 20 weeks.

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 96 received a median (mean) of 9.0 (9.7), 8.0 (8.2) and 13.0 (12.8) injections, respectively.

At week 96, in the pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups 71.0% of patients had attained treatment intervals of  $\geq 16$  weeks, 46.8% of patients had attained treatment intervals of  $\geq 20$  weeks, and 27.8% of patients had attained treatment intervals of 24 weeks, while maintaining visual and anatomic outcomes.

Treatment with 8Q12 and 8Q16 was shown to be non-inferior and clinically equivalent to treatment with 2Q8 in terms of the primary efficacy endpoint 'mean change in BCVA at week 48' and the key secondary efficacy endpoint 'mean change in BCVA at week 60'. The treatment effect with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml in mean change in BCVA was maintained through week 96.

Furthermore, treatment with Eylea (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups) was shown to be superior to treatment with 2Q8 in terms of the key secondary efficacy endpoint 'proportion of patients with no intraretinal fluid (IRF) and no subretinal fluid (SRF) in the central subfield at week 16' (see table 4).

**Table 4: Efficacy outcomes from the PULSAR study**

Efficacy outcomes	Week	Eylea 8Q12 (N = 335)	Eylea 8Q16 (N = 338)	Eylea 2Q8 (N = 336)
<b>Change in BCVA from baseline as measured by ETDRS letter score<sup>D</sup></b>				
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	48	6.7 (12.6)	6.2 (11.7)	7.6 (12.2)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		6.06 (0.77)	5.89 (0.72)	7.03 (0.74)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.97 (-2.87, 0.92)	-1.14 (-2.97, 0.69)	
p-value (one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of 4 letters) <sup>A,B</sup>		0.0009	0.0011	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	60	6.6 (13.6)	6.6 (11.7)	7.8 (12.6)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		6.37 (0.74)	6.31 (0.66)	7.23 (0.68)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.86 (-2.57, 0.84)	-0.92 (-2.51, 0.66)	
p-value (one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of 4 letters) <sup>A,B</sup>		0.0002	<0.0001	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	96	5.9 (14.2)	5.6 (13.7)	7.4 (13.8)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		5.59 (0.77)	5.52 (0.75)	6.60 (0.73)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-1.01 (-2.82, 0.80)	-1.08 (-2.87, 0.71)	
<b>Patients with no IRF and no SRF in the central subfield<sup>D</sup></b>				
Proportion (LOCF)	16	63.3%		51.6%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		11.7% (5.3%, 18.2%)		
p-value (one-sided superiority test) <sup>B,C</sup>		0.0002		
Proportion (LOCF)	48	71.1%	66.8%	59.4%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		11.7% (4.5%, 18.9%)	7.5% (0.1%, 14.8%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	60	74.6%	72.2%	74.6%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		0.0% (-6.6%, 6.7%)	-2.2% (-8.9%, 4.4%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	96	69.6%	63.6%	66.5%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		3.0% (-4.1%, 10.1%)	-3.0% (-10.2%, 4.2%)	

Efficacy outcomes	Week	Eylea 8Q12 (N = 335)	Eylea 8Q16 (N = 338)	Eylea 2Q8 (N = 336)
<b>Patients achieving an ETDRS letter score of at least 69 (approximate 20/40 Snellen equivalent) <sup>D</sup></b>				
Proportion (LOCF)	48	56.9%	54.3%	57.9%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-0.2% (-6.6%, 6.2%)	-2.2% (-8.4%, 4.0%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	60	56.3%	54.6%	58.2%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-1.1% (-7.5%, 5.3%)	-2.3% (-8.7%, 4.1%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	96	53.3%	53.1%	56.7%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-2.7% (-9.4%, 4.0%)	-2.4% (-9.1%, 4.2%)	
<b>Patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline <sup>D</sup></b>				
Proportion (LOCF)	48	20.7%	21.7%	22.1%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-1.7% (-7.8%, 4.3%)	-0.9% (-7.0%, 5.1%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	60	23.7%	23.1%	23.3%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		0.1% (-6.2%, 6.3%)	-0.7% (-6.9%, 5.5%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	96	22.2%	22.8%	24.2%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-2.4% (-8.4%, 3.6%)	-2.0% (-8.0%, 4.1%)	
<b>Last intended treatment intervals</b>				
<b>Patients at <math>\geq</math>Q12 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	87.8%		n/a
Proportion		86.6%	89.0%	n/a
<b>Patients at <math>\geq</math>Q16 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	71.0%		n/a
Proportion		63.6%	78.4%	n/a
<b>Patients at <math>\geq</math>Q20 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	46.8%		n/a
Proportion		40.5%	53.1%	n/a
<b>Patients at Q24 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	27.8%		n/a
Proportion		24.7%	30.8%	n/a

<sup>A</sup> LS mean, CI and p-value based on an MMRM with baseline best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) measurement as covariate, treatment group as factor, visit and stratification variables used for randomisation (geographical region, categorical baseline BCVA) as fixed factors as well as terms for the interaction between baseline BCVA and visit and for the interaction between treatment and visit.

<sup>B</sup> Absolute difference is Eylea 8Q12- or 8Q16-groups minus 2Q8-groups, respectively.

<sup>C</sup> Mantel-Haenszel weighted treatment difference with stratification variables used for randomization (geographical region, categorical baseline BCVA) and CI calculated using normal approximation.

<sup>D</sup> Full analysis set

<sup>E</sup> Safety analysis set; patients considered as completer for the respective timepoint

CI: Confidence interval

LOCF: Last observation carried forward

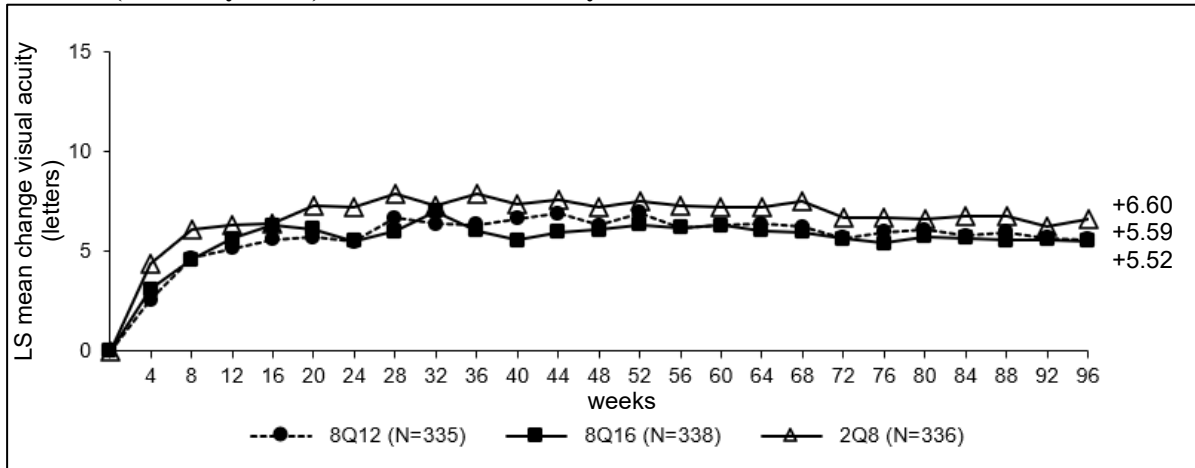
LS: Least square

SD: Standard deviation

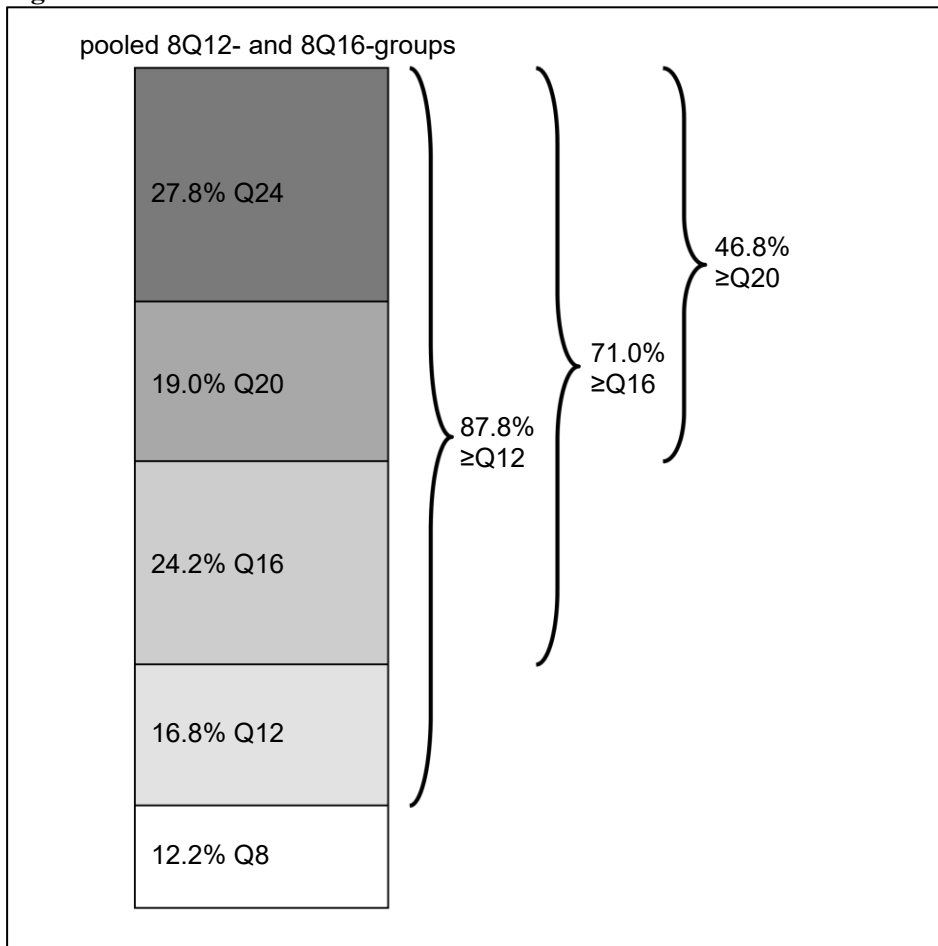
SE: Standard error

Treatment intervals were analysed in a pre-specified exploratory manner.

**Figure 3: LS mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline through week 96 (full analysis set) in the PULSAR study**



**Figure 4: Last intended treatment interval at week 96**



Aflibercept at all doses (8Q12, 8Q16, 2Q8) demonstrated meaningful increase from baseline in the pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint national eye institute visual function questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25).

No clinically meaningful differences were found between the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups in changes of NEI VFQ-25 total score at week 48 and week 96 from baseline.

Efficacy results in evaluable subgroups for age, gender, geographic region, ethnicity, race, baseline BCVA, and lesion type were consistent with the results in the overall population.

Efficacy was generally maintained through week 96.

## DME

### *Study objectives*

The safety and efficacy of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml were assessed in a randomised, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled study (PHOTON) in patients with DME.

The primary objective was to determine if treatment with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml at intervals of 12 (8Q12) or 16 weeks (8Q16) provides non-inferior BCVA change compared to Eylea 40 mg/ml every 8 weeks. The secondary objectives were to determine the effect of Eylea 114.3 mg/ml versus Eylea 40 mg/ml on anatomic and other visual measures of response, and to evaluate the safety, immunogenicity, and pharmacokinetics of aflibercept.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the change from baseline in BCVA measured by the early treatment diabetic retinopathy study (ETDRS) letter score at week 48.

One key secondary endpoint was the change in BCVA from baseline at week 60.

Further secondary endpoints were the proportion of patients gaining at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline at week 48, the proportion of patients achieving an ETDRS letter score of at least 69 (approximate 20/40 Snellen equivalent) at week 48, and the change from baseline in National Eye Institute Visual Functioning Questionnaire-25 (NEI-VFQ-25) total score at week 48, among others.

In the PHOTON study a total of 658 patients were treated. The patients were assigned in a 2:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 parallel treatment groups:

1. Eylea 114.3 mg/ml administered every 12 weeks (8Q12)
2. Eylea 114.3 mg/ml administered every 16 weeks (8Q16)
3. Eylea 40 mg/ml administered every 8 weeks (2Q8)

All patients in the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups received 3 initial injections and all patients in the 2Q8-group received 5 initial injections at 4-week intervals.

Per study protocol the interval of the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups was to be shortened if both of the following criteria were met:

1. >10 letter loss in BCVA from week 12 in association with persistent or worsening DME, and
2. >50 microns increase in CRT from week 12.

Regardless of whether patient intervals were maintained or shortened in year 1, per study protocol all patients in the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups were eligible for interval extension (by 4 weeks increments), beginning at week 52, if the following criteria were met:

1. <5 letter loss in BCVA from week 12, and
2. CRT <300 microns on SD-OCT (or <320 microns if measured including RPE).

For patients who did not meet the criteria for shortening or extension of the interval, the dosing interval was maintained. The minimum interval between injections was 8 weeks in all groups. Patients with bilateral disease were eligible to receive Eylea 40 mg/ml treatment in their fellow eye.

### *Patient characteristics at baseline*

Patient ages ranged from 24 to 90 years with a mean of 62.3 years.

Approximately 44% (143/328) and 44% (71/163) of the patients randomised to the 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups, respectively, were 65 years of age or older and approximately 11% (36/328) and 14% (14/163) were 75 years of age or older.

The proportion of patients who were treated previously for DME was balanced between the treatment groups (43.6% in 8Q12-, 43.6% in 8Q16-, 44.3% in 2Q8-group).

### *Results*

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 48 received a median (mean) of 6.0 (6.0), 5.0 (5.0) and 8.0 (7.9) injections, respectively.

At week 48, in the 8Q12-group, 91.0% of patients maintained Q12 intervals while in the 8Q16-group 89.1% of patients maintained Q16 intervals.

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 60 received a median (mean) of 7.0 (7.0), 6.0 (6.0) and 10.0 (9.8) injections, respectively. At week 60, 42.6% of patients in the 8Q12-group were extended to a treatment interval of 16 weeks, and 34.2% of patients in the 8Q16-group were extended to a treatment interval of 20 weeks.

Patients in the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups who completed week 96 received a median (mean) of 9.0 (9.5), 8.0 (7.8) and 14.0 (13.8) injections, respectively.

At week 96, in the pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups 72.4% of patients had attained treatment intervals of  $\geq 16$  weeks, 44.3% of patients had attained treatment intervals of  $\geq 20$  weeks, and 26.8% of patients had attained treatment intervals of 24 weeks, while maintaining visual and anatomic outcomes.

Treatment with Eylea (both 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups) was shown to be non-inferior and clinically equivalent to treatment with 2Q8 in terms of the primary efficacy endpoint 'mean change in BCVA at week 48' and the key secondary efficacy endpoint 'mean change in BCVA at week 60'. The treatment effect with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml in mean change in BCVA was maintained through week 96.

**Table 5: Efficacy outcomes from the PHOTON study**

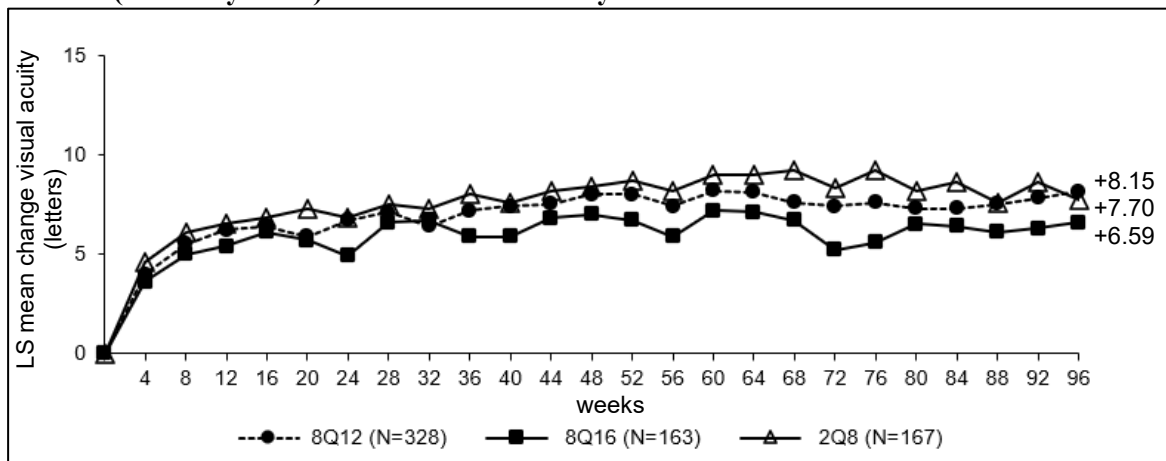
Efficacy outcomes	Week	Eylea 8Q12 (N = 328)	Eylea 8Q16 (N = 163)	Eylea 2Q8 (N = 167)
<b>Change in BCVA from baseline as measured by ETDRS letter score <sup>D</sup></b>				
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	48	8.77 (8.95)	7.86 (8.38)	9.21 (8.99)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		8.10 (0.61)	7.23 (0.71)	8.67 (0.73)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.57 (-2.26, 1.13)	-1.44 (-3.27, 0.39)	
p-value (one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of 4 letters) <sup>A,B</sup>		<0.0001	0.0031	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	60	9.05 (9.27)	7.96 (9.14)	9.62 (9.58)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		8.52 (0.63)	7.64 (0.75)	9.40 (0.77)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.88 (-2.67, 0.91)	-1.76 (-3.71, 0.19)	
p-value (one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of 4 letters) <sup>A,B</sup>		0.0003	0.0122	
Arithmetic mean (SD), observed	96	8.82 (9.93)	7.50 (9.86)	8.41 (11.10)
LS mean (SE) <sup>A</sup>		8.15 (0.63)	6.59 (0.77)	7.70 (0.89)
Difference in LS means (95% CI) <sup>A,B</sup>		-0.45 (-1.55, 2.45)	-1.11 (-3.27, 1.05)	
p-value (one-sided non-inferiority test at a margin of 4 letters) <sup>A,B</sup>				
<b>Patients achieving an ETDRS letter score of at least 69 (approximate 20/40 Snellen equivalent) <sup>D</sup></b>				
Proportion (LOCF)	48	65.3%	62.6%	63.0%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		2.45% (-6.47%, 11.36%)	-0.67% (-11.16%, 9.82%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	60	64.7%	62.0%	60.6%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		4.34% (-4.72%, 13.40%)	1.63% (-8.91%, 12.17%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	96	66.9%	61.3%	63.0%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		4.01% (-4.99%, 13.01%)	-1.51% (-11.91%, 8.89%)	
<b>Patients who gained at least 15 letters in BCVA from baseline <sup>D</sup></b>				
Proportion (LOCF)	48	18.7%	16.6%	23.0%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-4.64% (-12.30%, 3.02%)	-7.14% (-15.45%, 1.17%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	60	21.5%	16.0%	26.1%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-5.01% (-13.04%, 3.02%)	-10.78% (-19.27%, -2.29%)	
Proportion (LOCF)	96	24.5%	19.6%	26.1%
Adjusted difference in proportion (95% CI) <sup>B,C</sup>		-1.88% (-10.03%, 6.28%)	-7.07% (-15.94%, 1.80%)	
<b>Last intended treatment intervals</b>				
<b>Patients at ≥Q12 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	92.9%		n/a
Proportion		91.8%	95.0%	n/a
<b>Patients at ≥Q16 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	72.4%		n/a
Proportion		64.1%	87.8%	n/a
<b>Patients at ≥Q20 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	44.3%		n/a
Proportion		43.0%	46.8%	n/a
<b>Patients at Q24 treatment interval <sup>E</sup></b>				
Proportion (pooled 8Q12- and 8Q16-groups)	96	26.8%		n/a
Proportion		23.8%	32.4%	n/a

<sup>A</sup> LS mean, CI and p-value based on an MMRM with baseline best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) measurement as covariate, treatment group as factor, visit and stratification variables used for randomisation (geographical region, categorical baseline BCVA) as fixed factors as well as terms for the interaction between baseline BCVA and visit and for the interaction between treatment and visit.

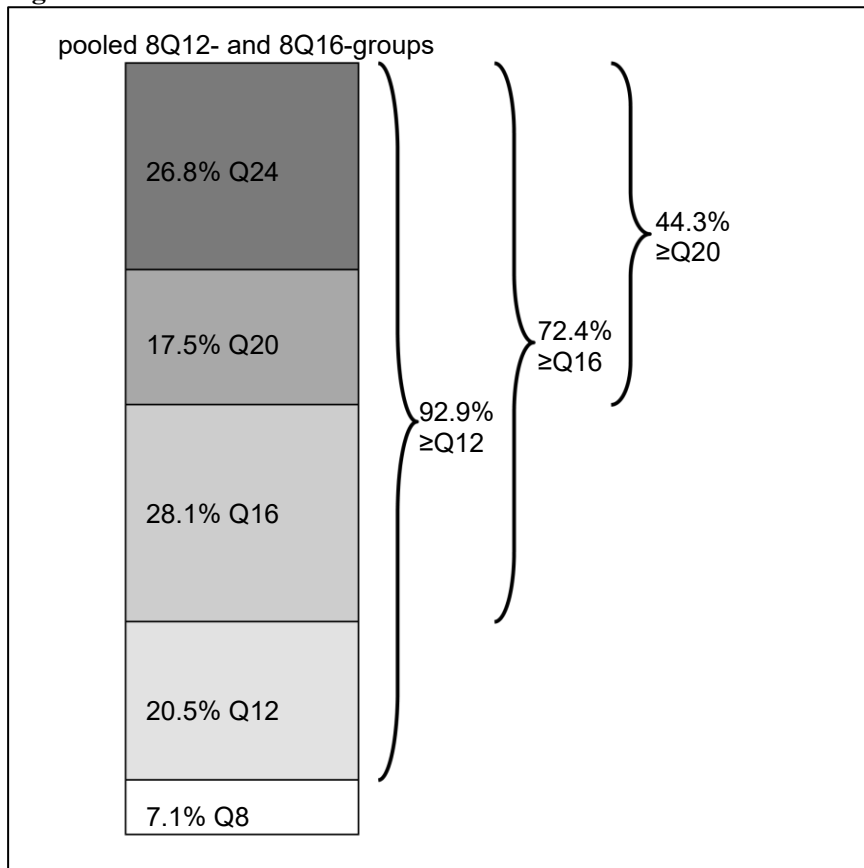
- B Absolute difference is Eylea 8Q12- or 8Q16-groups minus 2Q8-groups, respectively.
- C Mantel-Haenszel weighted treatment difference with stratification variables used for randomization (geographical region, categorical baseline BCVA) and CI calculated using normal approximation.
- D Full analysis set
- E Safety analysis set; patients considered as completer for the respective timepoint
- CI: Confidence interval
- LOCF: Last observation carried forward
- LS: Least square
- SD: Standard deviation
- SE: Standard error

Treatment intervals were analysed in a pre-specified exploratory manner.

**Figure 5: LS mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline through week 96 (full analysis set) in the PHOTON study**



**Figure 6: Last intended treatment interval at week 96**



Eylea at all doses (8Q12, 8Q16, 2Q8) demonstrated meaningful increase from baseline in the pre-specified secondary efficacy endpoint national eye institute visual function questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25).

No clinically meaningful differences were found between the 8Q12-, 8Q16- and 2Q8-groups in changes of NEI VFQ-25 total score at week 48 and week 96 from baseline.

Efficacy results in evaluable subgroups for age, gender, geographic region, ethnicity, race, baseline BCVA and baseline CRT and prior DME treatment were consistent with the results in the overall population.

Efficacy was generally maintained through week 96.

Treatment effects in the sub-group of previously treated patients were similar to those seen in patients who were treatment naïve.

### Paediatric population

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with aflibercept in all subsets of the paediatric population in nAMD and DME (see section 4.2 for information on paediatric use).

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### Absorption / Distribution

Aflibercept is slowly absorbed from the eye into the systemic circulation after intravitreal administration and is predominately observed in the systemic circulation as an inactive, stable complex with VEGF; however only “free aflibercept” is able to bind endogenous VEGF.

Following unilateral intravitreal administration of 8 mg aflibercept, the mean (SD)  $C_{max}$  of free aflibercept in plasma was 0.25 (0.21) mg/l, and the median time to maximal concentration in plasma was 1 day, in the nAMD and DME population combined. The accumulation of free aflibercept in plasma following 3 initial monthly doses was minimal. Subsequently, no further accumulation was observed. These data are also supported by population pharmacokinetic analyses.

### Elimination

Aflibercept is a protein-based therapeutic and no metabolism studies have been conducted.

Aflibercept is expected to undergo elimination through both target-mediated disposition via binding to free endogenous VEGF and metabolism via proteolysis. The median time to reach the last quantifiable concentration of free aflibercept in plasma for 8 mg administered intravitreally was 3 weeks.

### Renal or hepatic impairment

No special studies in patients with renal or hepatic impairment have been conducted with Eylea 114.3 mg/ml.

The systemic exposures to aflibercept in patients with mild to severe renal impairment were similar to those with normal renal function. Limited available data in patients with mild hepatic impairment do not indicate an influence on systemic exposures to aflibercept compared to patients with normal hepatic function.



### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Erosions and ulcerations of the respiratory epithelium in nasal turbinates in monkeys treated with aflibercept intravitreally were observed at systemic exposures in excess of the maximum human exposure. The systemic exposure for free aflibercept was approximately 26- and 33-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC when compared to corresponding values in adult patients after an intravitreal dose of 8 mg. At the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) of 0.5 mg/eye in monkeys the systemic exposure was 3.2- and 3.8-fold higher based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC when compared to corresponding values in adult patients.

No studies have been conducted on the mutagenic or carcinogenic potential of aflibercept.

An effect of aflibercept on intrauterine development was shown in embryo-foetal development studies in pregnant rabbits with intravenous (3 to 60 mg/kg) as well as subcutaneous (0.1 to 1 mg/kg) administration. The maternal NOAEL was at the dose of 3 mg/kg or 1 mg/kg, respectively. A developmental NOAEL was not identified. At the 0.1 mg/kg dose, the systemic exposure for free aflibercept was approximately 1.0- and 1.0-fold based on  $C_{max}$  and cumulative AUC when compared to corresponding values in adult patients after an intravitreal dose of 8 mg.

Effects on male and female fertility were assessed as part of a 6-month study in monkeys with intravenous administration of aflibercept at doses ranging from 3 to 30 mg/kg. Absent or irregular menses associated with alterations in female reproductive hormone levels and changes in sperm morphology and motility were observed at all dose levels. Based on  $C_{max}$  and AUC for free aflibercept observed at the 3 mg/kg intravenous dose, the systemic exposures were approximately 377-fold and 104-fold higher, respectively, than the exposure in humans after an intravitreal dose of 8 mg. All changes were reversible.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Sucrose  
Arginine hydrochloride  
Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate  
Histidine  
Polysorbate 20  
Water for injections

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

Do not freeze.

Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

The unopened vial may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours.

## 6.5 Nature and contents of container

Vial (type I glass) with a grey rubber stopper (chlorobutyl) sealed with an aluminium cap with white lid, and a 18 G, 5-micron filter needle.

Each vial contains 0.263 ml solution.

Pack size of 1 vial and 1 filter needle.

## 6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling


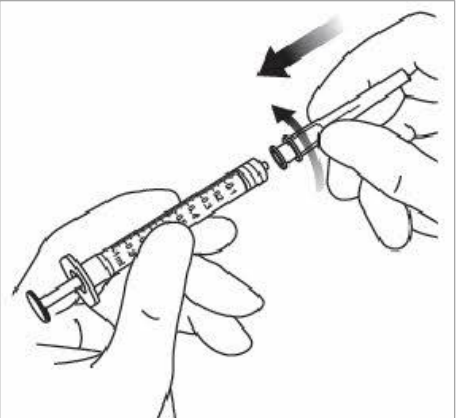
The vial is for single use in one eye only. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

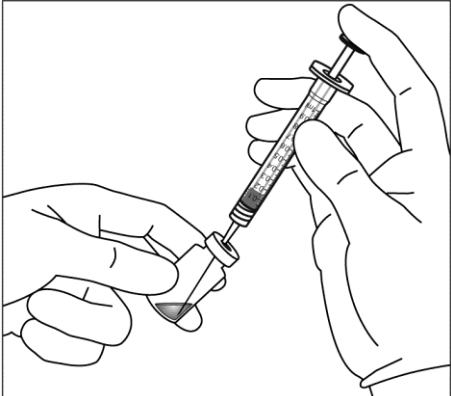
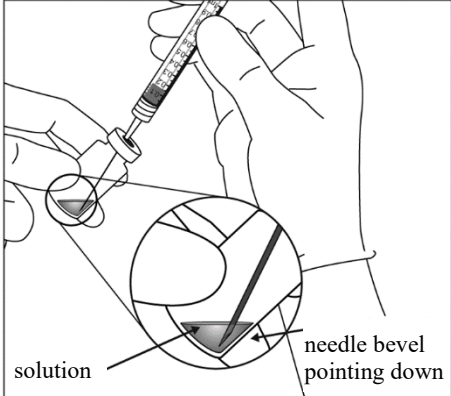
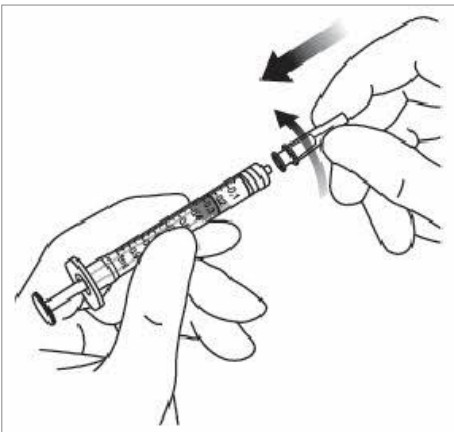
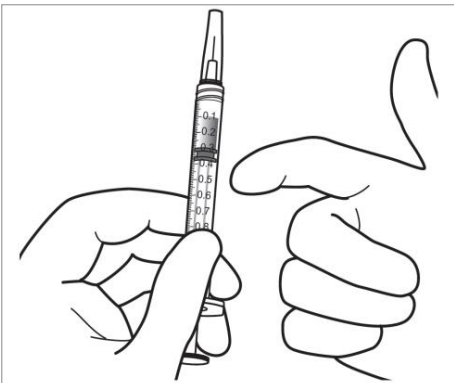
Do not use if the package or its components are expired, damaged, or have been tampered with. Check the label on the vial to make sure you have the strength of Eylea that you intended to use. The 8 mg dose requires use of the Eylea 114.3 mg/ml vial.

### 18 G, 5-micron filter needle:

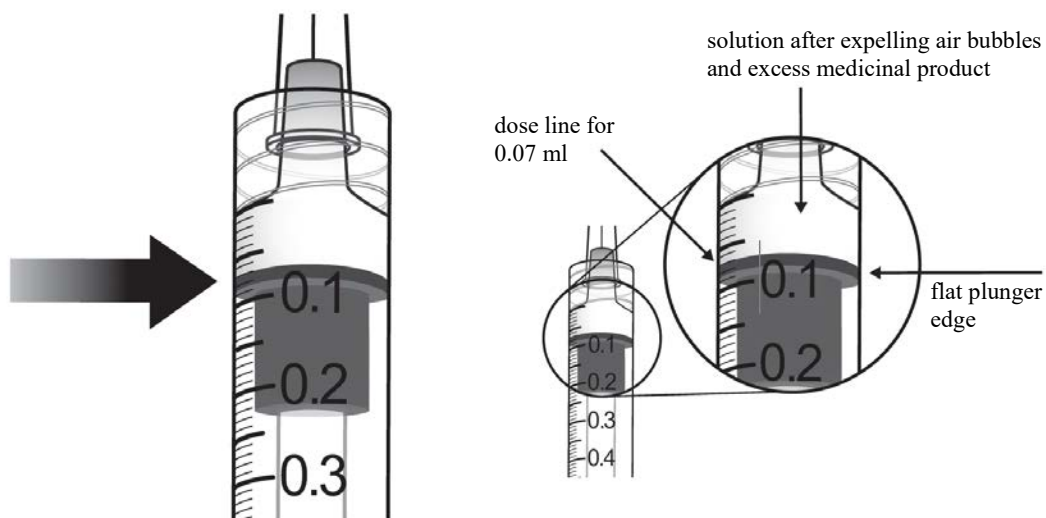
- BD blunt filter (fill) needle, not for skin injection.
- Do not autoclave BD blunt filter (fill) needle.
- The filter needle is non-pyrogenic. Do not use it if individual packaging is damaged.
- Discard the used BD Blunt Filter (Fill) Needle in approved sharps collector.
- Caution: Re-use of the filter needle may lead to infection or other illness/injury.

The intravitreal injection should be performed with a 30 G × ½ inch injection needle (not included). Use of a smaller size needle (higher gauge) than the recommended 30 G × ½ inch injection needle may result in increased injection forces.

1.	Prior to administration visually inspect the solution for injection. Do not use the vial if particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible.	
2.	Remove the plastic cap and disinfect the outer part of the rubber stopper of the vial.	
3.	Use aseptic technique to carry out steps 3-10. Attach the filter needle supplied in the carton to a 1-ml sterile, Luer-lock syringe.	

4.	Push the filter needle into the centre of the vial stopper until the needle is completely inserted into the vial and the tip touches the bottom or bottom edge of the vial.
5.	<p>Withdraw all of the Eylea vial content into the syringe, keeping the vial in an upright position, slightly inclined to ease complete withdrawal. To deter the introduction of air, ensure the bevel of the filter needle is submerged into the liquid. Continue to tilt the vial during withdrawal keeping the bevel of the filter needle submerged in the liquid.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
6.	Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial to completely empty the filter needle. After injection any unused product must be discarded.
7.	Remove the filter needle and properly dispose of it. <b>Note:</b> The filter needle is <b>not</b> to be used for the intravitreal injection.
8.	<p>Firmly twist the 30 G × ½ inch injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.</p> 
9.	<p>Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.</p> 

10. To eliminate all bubbles and to expel excess medicinal product, slowly depress the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks **0.07 ml** on the syringe.



Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## 7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

## 8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

EU/1/12/797/003

## 9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 22 November 2012  
Date of latest renewal: 13 July 2017

## 10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

## **ANNEX II**

- A. MANUFACTURER OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE  
SUBSTANCE AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBLE FOR  
BATCH RELEASE**
- B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY  
AND USE**
- C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
MARKETING AUTHORISATION**
- D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO  
THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL  
PRODUCT**

**A. MANUFACTURER OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE SUBSTANCE AND MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE**

Name and address of the manufacturer of the biological active substance

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
81 Columbia Turnpike  
Rensselaer, New York 12144  
USA

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release

Bayer AG  
Müllerstraße 178  
13353 Berlin  
Germany

The printed package leaflet of the medicinal product must state the name and address of the manufacturer responsible for the release of the concerned batch.

**B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE**

Medicinal product subject to restricted medical prescription (see Annex I: Summary of Product Characteristics, section 4.2).

**C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION**

- **Periodic safety update reports (PSURs)**

The requirements for submission of PSURs for this medicinal product are set out in the list of Union reference dates (EURD list) provided for under Article 107c(7) of Directive 2001/83/EC and any subsequent updates published on the European medicines web-portal.

**D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

- **Risk management plan (RMP)**

The marketing authorisation holder (MAH) shall perform the required pharmacovigilance activities and interventions detailed in the agreed RMP presented in Module 1.8.2 of the marketing authorisation and any agreed subsequent updates of the RMP.

An updated RMP should be submitted:

- At the request of the European Medicines Agency;
- Whenever the risk management system is modified, especially as the result of new information being received that may lead to a significant change to the benefit/risk profile or as the result of an important (pharmacovigilance or risk minimisation) milestone being reached.

If the dates for submission of a PSUR and the update of a RMP coincide, they can be submitted at the same time.

## Pharmacovigilance system

The MAH must ensure that the system of pharmacovigilance presented in Module 1.8.1 of the Marketing Authorisation is in place and functioning before and whilst the medicinal product is on the market.

- **Additional risk minimisation measures**

The MAH has agreed to provide EU educational material for Eylea. Prior to launch and during the product's lifecycle in each Member State the MAH will agree the final educational material with the National Competent Authority.

The MAH ensures that, following discussions and agreement with the National Competent Authorities in each Member State where Eylea is marketed, ophthalmological clinics where Eylea is expected to be used are provided with an updated physician information pack containing the following elements:

- Physician information
- Intravitreal injection procedure video
- Intravitreal injection procedure pictogram
- Patient information packs (for adult population only)

The physician information in the educational material contains the following key elements:

- Techniques for the intravitreal injection including use of a 30 G needle, and angle of injection
- The vial is for single use only
- The need to expel excess volume of the syringe before injecting Eylea to avoid overdose (in adult population only)
- Patient monitoring after intravitreal injection including monitoring for visual acuity and increase of intraocular pressure post-injection
- Key signs and symptoms of intravitreal injection related adverse events including endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, increased intraocular pressure, retinal pigment epithelial tear and cataract
- Female patients of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception and pregnant women should not use Eylea (in adult population only)

The following key element is specific to the 40 mg/ml:

- The pre-filled syringe and the paediatric dosing device are for single use only

The following key elements are specific to the ROP (retinopathy of prematurity) indication:

- Use of the paediatric dosing device is mandatory
- The need to properly prime the paediatric dosing device before injection

The patient information pack of the educational material for the adult population includes a patient information guide and its audio version. The patient information guide contains following key elements:

- Patient information leaflet
- Who should be treated with Eylea
- How to prepare for Eylea treatment
- What are the steps following treatment with Eylea
- Key signs and symptoms of serious adverse events including endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, intraocular pressure increased, retinal pigment epithelial tear and cataract
- When to seek urgent attention from their health care provider
- Female patients of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception and pregnant women should not use Eylea

**ANNEX III**  
**LABELLING AND PACKAGE LEAFLET**



## **A. LABELLING**

**PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING  
CARTON  
Pre-filled syringe**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in pre-filled syringe  
aflibercept

**2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE**

1 pre-filled syringe contains 3.6 mg aflibercept in 0.09 mL solution (40 mg/mL).

**3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS**

Excipients: E 432; sodium dihydrogen phosphate, monohydrate; disodium hydrogen phosphate, heptahydrate; sodium chloride; sucrose; water for injections.

**4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS**

Solution for injection

1 pre-filled syringe contains 3.6 mg aflibercept in 0.09 mL solution (40 mg/mL) .  
Delivers 1 single dose of 2 mg/0.05 mL.

**5. METHOD AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Intravitreal use.  
For single use only.  
Read the package leaflet before use.  
Open the sterile blister in clean administration room only.  
Excess volume to be expelled before injecting.

**6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN**

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

**7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY**

**8. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store in a refrigerator.  
Do not freeze.  
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

**10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE**

**11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

**12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

EU/1/12/797/001

**13. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY**

**15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE**

**16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE**

Justification for not including Braille accepted.

**17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE**

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

**18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA**

PC  
SN  
NN

**PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE BLISTER FOIL**

**Pre-filled syringe**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection  
aflibercept

**2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE**

1 pre-filled syringe contains 3.6 mg aflibercept in 0.09 mL solution (40 mg/mL).

**3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS**

**4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS**

1 pre-filled syringe contains 3.6 mg aflibercept in 0.09 mL solution (40 mg/mL).  
Delivers 1 single dose of 2 mg/0.05 mL.

**5. METHOD AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Intravitreal use.  
For single use only.  
Read the package leaflet before use.  
Open the sterile blister in clean administration room only.  
Excess volume to be expelled before injecting.

**6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN**

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

**7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY**

**8. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store in a refrigerator.  
Do not freeze.  
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

**10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE**

**11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

**12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

EU/1/12/797/001

**13. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY**

**15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE**

**16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE**

**MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS LABEL**

**Pre-filled syringe**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Eylea 40 mg/mL injection  
aflibercept  
Intravitreal use

**2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**3. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**4. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT**

Extractable volume 0.09 mL

**6. OTHER**

**PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING  
CARTON  
Vial**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in a vial

aflibercept

**2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE**

1 vial contains 4 mg aflibercept in 0.1 mL solution (40 mg/mL).

**3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS**

Excipients: E 432; sodium dihydrogen phosphate, monohydrate; disodium hydrogen phosphate, heptahydrate, sodium chloride; sucrose; water for injections.

**4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS**

Solution for injection

1 vial contains 4 mg aflibercept in 0.1 mL solution (40 mg/mL).

18G filter needle

Delivers 1 single dose of 2 mg/0.05 mL.

**5. METHOD AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Intravitreal use.

For single use only.

Read the package leaflet before use.

Excess volume to be expelled before injecting.

**6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN**

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

**7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY**

**8. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store in a refrigerator.  
Do not freeze.  
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

**10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE**

**11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

**12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

EU/1/12/797/002

**13. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY**

**15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE**

**16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE**

Justification for not including Braille accepted.

**17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE**

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

**18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA**

PC  
SN  
NN



**MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS LABEL**  
**Vial**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Eylea 40 mg/mL injection  
aflibercept  
Intravitreal use

**2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**3. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**4. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT**

Extractable volume 0.1 mL

**6. OTHER**

**PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING**

**OUTER CARTON - VIAL**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Eylea 114.3 mg/ml solution for injection  
aflibercept

**2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE**

1 vial contains 30.1 mg aflibercept in 0.263 ml solution (114.3 mg/ml)

**3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS**

Excipients: sucrose, arginine hydrochloride, histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, histidine, polysorbate 20, water for injections

**4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS**

Solution for injection  
1 vial contains 30.1 mg aflibercept in 0.263 ml solution (114.3 mg/ml)  
18 G filter needle

**5. METHOD AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Intravitreal use  
For single use only.  
Read the package leaflet before use.  
30.1 mg/0.263 ml  
Single dose: 8 mg/0.07 ml  
Excess volume to be expelled before injection.

**6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN**

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

**7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY**

**8. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.  
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

**10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE**

**11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

**12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

EU/1/12/797/003

**13. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY**

**15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE**

**16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE**

Justification for not including Braille accepted.

**17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE**

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

**18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA**

PC  
SN  
NN

**MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS**

**LABEL - VIAL**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Eylea 114.3 mg/ml injection  
aflibercept  
Intravitreal use

**2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**3. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**4. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT**

30.1 mg/0.263 ml

**6. OTHER**

**B. PACKAGE LEAFLET**

## Package Leaflet: Information for the adult patient

### Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in a pre-filled syringe aflibercept

#### ADULTS

For information for guardians of babies born prematurely, please see the other side of this package leaflet. [applicable for 1 language]

For information for guardians of babies born prematurely, please see further down the page. [applicable for 2 or more languages]

#### **Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Eylea is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Eylea
3. How you will be given Eylea
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Eylea
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Eylea is and what it is used for**

Eylea is a solution which is injected into the eye to treat eye conditions in adults called

- neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD),
- impaired vision due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO (BRVO) or central RVO (CRVO)),
- impaired vision due to diabetic macular oedema (DME),
- impaired vision due to myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV).

Aflibercept, the active substance in Eylea, blocks the activity of a group of factors, known as Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor A (VEGF-A) and Placental Growth Factor (PlGF).

In patients with wet AMD and myopic CNV, these factors, in excess are involved in the abnormal formation of new blood vessels in the eye. These new blood vessels can cause the leak of blood components into the eye and eventual damage to tissues in the eye responsible for vision.

In patients with CRVO, a blockage occurs in the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina. VEGF levels are elevated in response causing the leakage of fluid into the retina and thereby causing a swelling of the macula, (the portion of the retina responsible for fine vision), which is called macular oedema. When the macula swells with fluid, central vision becomes blurry.

In patients with BRVO, one or more branches of the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina is blocked. VEGF levels are elevated in response causing the leakage of fluid into the retina and thereby causing macular oedema.

Diabetic macular oedema is a swelling of the retina occurring in patients with diabetes due to leaking of fluid from blood vessels within the macula. The macula is the portion of retina responsible for fine vision. When the macula swells with fluid, central vision becomes blurry.

Eylea has been shown to stop the growth of new abnormal blood vessels in the eye which often leak fluid or bleed. Eylea can help to stabilise, and in many cases, improve the vision loss related to wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV.

## **2. What you need to know before you are given Eylea**

### **You will not be given Eylea**

- if you are **allergic** to aflibercept or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you have an active or suspected infection in or around the eye (ocular or periocular infection).
- if you have severe inflammation of the eye (indicated by pain or redness).

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor before you are given Eylea

- if you have glaucoma.
- if you have a history of seeing flashes of light or floaters and if you have a sudden increase of size and number of floaters.
- if surgery was performed or is planned on your eye within the previous or next four weeks.
- if you have a severe form of CRVO or BRVO (ischaemic CRVO or BRVO), treatment with Eylea is not recommended.

Furthermore, it is important for you to know that

- the safety and efficacy of Eylea when administered to both eyes at the same time has not been studied and if used in this way may lead to an increased risk of experiencing side effects.
- injections with Eylea may cause an increase in eye pressure (intraocular pressure) in some patients within 60 minutes of the injection. Your doctor will monitor this after each injection.
- if you develop an infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis) or other complications, you may have eye pain or increased discomfort, worsening eye redness, blurred or decreased vision, and increased sensitivity to light. It is important to have any symptoms diagnosed and treated as soon as possible.
- your doctor will check whether you have other risk factors that may increase the chance of a tear or detachment of one of the layers at the back of the eye (retinal detachment or tear, and retinal pigment epithelial detachment or tear), in which case Eylea must be given with caution.
- Eylea should not be used in pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the unborn child.
- women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least three further months after the last injection of Eylea.

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye. There are limited data on safety in treating patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV who have had a stroke or a mini-stroke (transient ischaemic attack) or a heart attack within the last 6 months. If any of these apply to you, Eylea will be given with caution.

There is only limited experience in the treatment of

- patients with DME due to type I diabetes.
- diabetics with very high average blood sugar values (HbA1c over 12%).
- diabetics with an eye disease caused by diabetes called proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

There is no experience in the treatment of

- patients with acute infections.
- patients with other eye conditions such as a detachment of the retina or a hole in the macula.
- diabetics with uncontrolled high blood pressure.
- non-Asian patients with myopic CNV.
- patients previously treated for myopic CNV.
- patients with damage outside the central part of the macula (extrafoveal lesions) for myopic CNV.

If any of the above applies to you, your doctor will consider this lack of information when treating you with Eylea.

### **Children and adolescents**

The use of Eylea in children and adolescents under 18 years of age for indications other than retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) has not been studied.

### **Other medicines and Eylea**

Tell your doctor if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

- Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least three further months after the last injection of Eylea.
- There is no experience of using Eylea in pregnant women. Eylea should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the unborn child. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, discuss this with your doctor before treatment with Eylea.
- Small amounts of Eylea may pass into human milk. The effects on breast-fed newborns/infants are unknown. Eylea is not recommended during breast-feeding. If you are a breastfeeding woman, discuss this with your doctor before treatment with Eylea.

### **Driving and using machines**

After your injection with Eylea, you may experience some temporary visual disturbances. Do not drive or use machines as long as these last.

### **Important information about some of the ingredients of Eylea**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How you will be given Eylea**

A doctor experienced in giving eye injections will inject Eylea into your eye under aseptic (clean and sterile) conditions.

The recommended dose is 2 mg aflibercept (0.05 mL).

Eylea is given as an injection into your eye (intravitreal injection).

Before the injection your doctor will use a disinfectant eyewash to clean your eye carefully to prevent infection. Your doctor will also give you a local anaesthetic to reduce or prevent any pain you might have with the injection.

### **wet AMD**

Patients with wet AMD will be treated with one injection per month for three consecutive doses, followed by another injection after a further two months.

Your doctor will then decide whether the treatment interval between injections may be kept at every two months or be gradually extended in 2- or 4-weekly intervals if your condition has been stable.



If your condition worsens, the interval between injections can be shortened.

Unless you experience any problems or are advised differently by your doctor, there is no need for you to see your doctor between the injections.

**Macular oedema secondary to RVO (branch RVO or central RVO)**

Your doctor will determine the most appropriate treatment schedule for you. You will start your treatment with a series of monthly Eylea injections.

The interval between two injections should not be shorter than one month.

Your doctor may decide to stop treatment with Eylea, if you are not benefiting from continued treatment.

Your treatment will continue with monthly injections until your condition is stable. Three or more monthly injections may be needed.

Your doctor will monitor your response to treatment and may continue your treatment by gradually increasing the interval between your injections to maintain a stable condition. If your condition starts to worsen with a longer treatment interval, your doctor will shorten the interval accordingly.

Based on your response to treatment your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations and treatments.

**Diabetic macular oedema (DME)**

Patients with DME will be treated with one injection per month for the first five consecutive doses followed by one injection every two months thereafter.

Treatment interval may be kept at every two months or adjusted to your condition, based on your doctor's examination. Your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations.

Your doctor may decide to stop treatment with Eylea if it is determined that you are not benefiting from continued treatment.

**Myopic CNV**

Patients with myopic CNV will be treated with one single injection. You will receive further injections only if your doctor's examinations reveal that your condition has not improved.

The interval between two injections should not be shorter than one month.

If your condition goes away and then comes back, your doctor may re-start the treatment.

Your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations.

Detailed instructions for use are given at the end of the leaflet under "How to prepare and administer Eylea to adults".

**If a dose of Eylea is missed**

Make a new appointment for an examination and injection.

**Stopping treatment with Eylea**

Consult your doctor before stopping the treatment.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor.

#### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Allergic reactions** (hypersensitivity) could potentially occur. **These may be serious and require that you contact your doctor immediately.**

With administration of Eylea, there may be some side effects affecting the eyes which are due to the injection procedure. Some of these may be **serious** and include **blindness, a serious infection or inflammation inside the eye** (endophthalmitis), **detachment, tear or bleeding of the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye** (retinal detachment or tear), **clouding of the lens** (cataract), **bleeding in the eye** (vitreous haemorrhage), **detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina** (vitreous detachment) and **increase of pressure inside the eye**, see section 2. These serious side effects affecting the eyes occurred in less than 1 in 1,900 injections in clinical studies.

If you experience a sudden decrease in vision, or an increase in pain and redness in your eye after your injection, **contact your doctor immediately.**

#### List of side effects reported

The following is a list of the side effects reported to be possibly related to the injection procedure or to the medicine. Please do not get alarmed, you might not experience any of these. Always discuss any suspected side effects with your doctor.

**Very common side effects** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- deterioration of eyesight
- bleeding in the back of the eye (retinal haemorrhage)
- bloodshot eye caused by bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye
- eye pain

**Common side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- detachment or tear of one of the layers in the back of the eye, resulting in flashes of light with floaters sometimes progressing to a loss of vision (retinal pigment epithelial tear\*/detachment, retinal detachment/tear)
  - o \*Conditions known to be associated with wet AMD; observed in wet AMD patients only.
- degeneration of the retina causing disturbed vision
- bleeding in the eye (vitreous haemorrhage)
- certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract)
- damage to the front layer of the eyeball (the cornea)
- increase in eye pressure
- moving spots in vision (floaters)
- detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina (vitreous detachment, resulting in flashes of light with floaters)
- a feeling of having something in the eye
- increased tear production
- swelling of the eyelid
- bleeding at the injection site
- redness of the eye

**Uncommon side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- allergic reactions (hypersensitivity)\*\*
  - o \*\* Allergic reactions like rash, itching (pruritus), hives (urticaria), and a few cases of severe allergy (anaphylactic/anaphylactoid) reactions were reported.
- serious inflammation or infection inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
- inflammation in the iris or other parts of the eye (iritis, uveitis, iridocyclitis, anterior chamber flare)
- abnormal sensation in the eye
- eyelid irritation
- swelling of the front layer of the eyeball (cornea)

**Rare side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- blindness
- clouding of the lens due to injury (traumatic cataract)
- inflammation of the gel-like substance inside the eye
- pus in the eye

In the clinical trials, there was an increased incidence of bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye (conjunctival haemorrhage) in patients with wet AMD receiving blood thinners. This increased incidence was comparable between patients treated with ranibizumab and Eylea.

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye.

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a possibility for an immune reaction (formation of antibodies) with Eylea.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in [Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. How to store Eylea**

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store in a refrigerator (2 °C to 8 °C). Do not freeze.
- The unopened blister may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours.
- Store in the original package in order to protect from light.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What Eylea contains

- The active substance is: aflibercept. One pre-filled syringe contains an extractable volume of at least 0.09 mL, equivalent to at least 3.6 mg aflibercept. One pre-filled syringe delivers a dose of 2 mg aflibercept in 0.05 mL.
- The other ingredients are: polysorbate 20 (E 432), sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate (for pH adjustment), disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate (for pH adjustment), sodium chloride, sucrose, water for injections.

### What Eylea looks like and contents of the pack

Eylea is a solution for injection (injection) in a pre-filled syringe. The solution is colourless to pale yellow.

Pack size of 1 pre-filled syringe.

### Marketing Authorisation Holder

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

### Manufacturer

Bayer AG  
Müllerstraße 178  
13353 Berlin  
Germany

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

#### **België / Belgique / Belgien**

Bayer SA-NV  
Tél/Tel: +32-(0)2-535 63 11

#### **България**

Байер България ЕООД  
Тел: +359-(0)2-424 72 80

#### **Česká republika**

Bayer s.r.o.  
Tel: +420-266 101 111

#### **Danmark**

Bayer A/S  
Tlf: +45-45 235 000

#### **Deutschland**

Bayer Vital GmbH  
Tel: +49-(0)214-30 513 48

#### **Eesti**

Bayer OÜ  
Tel: +372-655 85 65

#### **Ελλάδα**

Bayer Ελλάς ABEE  
Τηλ: +30-210-618 75 00

#### **España**

Bayer Hispania S.L.  
Tel: +34-93-495 65 00

#### **Lietuva**

UAB Bayer  
Tel: +370-5-233 68 68

#### **Luxembourg / Luxemburg**

Bayer SA-NV  
Tél/Tel: +32-(0)2-535 63 11

#### **Magyarország**

Bayer Hungária KFT  
Tel: +36-1-487 4100

#### **Malta**

Alfred Gera and Sons Ltd.  
Tel: +356-21 44 62 05

#### **Nederland**

Bayer B.V.  
Tel: +31-23-799 1000

#### **Norge**

Bayer AS  
Tlf: +47-23 13 05 00

#### **Österreich**

Bayer Austria Ges. m. b. H.  
Tel: +43-(0)1-711 460

#### **Polska**

Bayer Sp. z o.o.  
Tel: +48-22-572 35 00

**France**

Bayer HealthCare  
Tél (N° vert): +33-(0)800 87 54 54

**Hrvatska**

Bayer d.o.o.  
Tel: + 385-(0)1-6599 900

**Ireland**

Bayer Limited  
Tel: +353-(0)1-216 3300

**Ísland**

Icepharma hf.  
Sími: +354-540 80 00

**Italia**

Bayer S.p.A.  
Tel: +39-02-3978 1

**Κύπρος**

NOVAGEM Limited  
Τηλ: +357-22-48 38 58

**Latvija**

SIA Bayer  
Tel: +371-67 84 55 63

**Portugal**

Bayer Portugal, Lda.  
Tel: +351-21-416 42 00

**România**

SC Bayer SRL  
Tel: +40-(0)21-529 59 00

**Slovenija**

Bayer d. o. o.  
Tel: +386-(0)1-58 14 400

**Slovenská republika**

Bayer, spol. s r.o.  
Tel: +421-(0)2-59 21 31 11

**Suomi/Finland**

Bayer Oy  
Puh/Tel: +358-(0)20-78521

**Sverige**

Bayer AB  
Tel: +46-(0)8-580 223 00

**United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)**

Bayer AG  
Tel: +44-(0)118 206 3000

**This leaflet was last revised in**

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website:  
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

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**The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:****How to prepare and administer Eylea to adults**

The pre-filled syringe should only be used **for the treatment of a single eye**.  
Do not open the sterile pre-filled syringe blister outside the clean administration room.

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL). The excess volume must be discarded prior to administration.

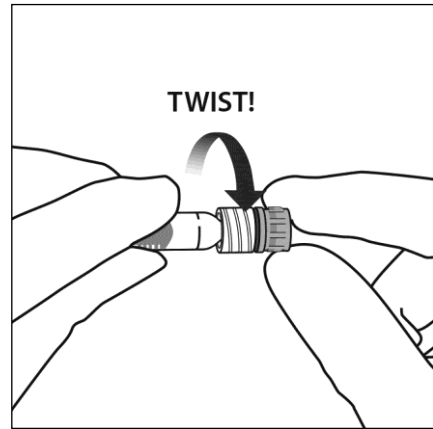
The solution should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or discolouration or any variation in physical appearance prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the medicinal product.

The unopened blister may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours. After opening the blister, proceed under aseptic conditions. For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

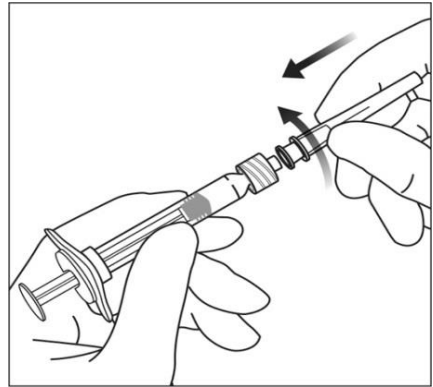
**Instructions for use of pre-filled syringe:**

1. When ready to administer Eylea, open the carton and remove the sterilised blister. Carefully peel open the blister ensuring the sterility of its contents. Keep the syringe in the sterile tray until you are ready for assembly.
2. Using aseptic technique, remove the syringe from the sterilised blister.

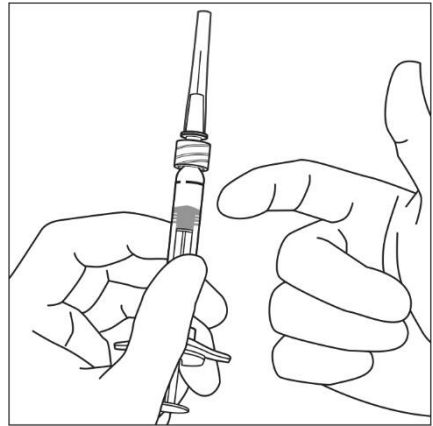
3. To remove the syringe cap, hold the syringe in one hand while using the other hand to grasp the syringe cap with the thumb and fore finger. Please note: You should twist off (do not snap off) the syringe cap.



4. To avoid compromising the sterility of the product, do not pull back on the plunger.  
5. Using aseptic technique, firmly twist the injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.

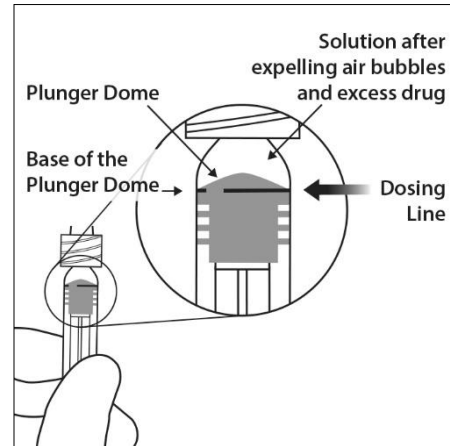
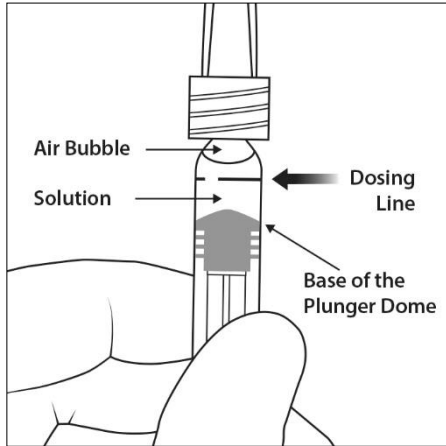


6. Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.



7. Eliminate all bubbles and **expel excess medicinal product by slowly depressing the plunger to align the base of the plunger dome (not the tip of the dome) with the dosing line on the syringe** (equivalent to 0.05 mL i.e. 2 mg aflibercept).

**Note:** This accurate positioning of the plunger is very important, because incorrect plunger positioning can lead to delivering more or less than the labelled dose



8. Inject while pressing the plunger carefully and with constant pressure. Do not apply additional pressure once the plunger has reached the bottom of the syringe. **Do not administer any residual solution observed in the syringe.**
9. The pre-filled syringe is for single use only. Extraction of multiple doses from a pre-filled syringe may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## Package Leaflet: Information for guardians of babies born prematurely

### Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in a pre-filled syringe aflibercept

#### BABIES BORN PREMATURELY

For adult information, please see the other side of this package leaflet. [applicable for 1 language]

For adult information, please see top of the page. [applicable for 2 or more languages]

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before the baby is given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask the baby's doctor.
- If you notice any symptoms of side effects, talk to the baby's doctor. This includes any possible symptoms and side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet

1. What Eylea is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before the baby is given Eylea
3. How the baby will be given Eylea
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Eylea
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Eylea is and what it is used for

Eylea is a solution which is injected into the eye. Eylea belongs to a group of medicines called antineovascularisation agents. It contains the active substance called aflibercept.

Eylea is used in babies born prematurely to treat an eye condition called retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). Babies with ROP have abnormal growth of new blood vessels in the back of the eye (retina) induced by Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF). This may cause vision impairment and in severe cases permanent blindness.

Aflibercept, the active substance in Eylea, blocks the activity of a group of factors, known as Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor A (VEGF-A) and Placental Growth Factor (PlGF).

Eylea has been shown to stop the growth of new abnormal blood vessels in the eye which often leak fluid or bleed. Eylea can help to stabilise, and in many cases, improve the vision loss related to ROP.

#### 2. What you need to know before the baby is given Eylea

##### The baby will not be given Eylea if he or she

- is **allergic** to aflibercept or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- has an active or suspected infection in or around the eye (ocular or periocular infection).
- has severe inflammation of the eye (indicated by pain or redness).

#### Warnings and precautions

Talk to the baby's doctor before the baby is given Eylea

- if surgery was performed or is planned on the baby's eye within the previous or next four weeks.



Furthermore, it is important for you to know that

- injections with Eylea may cause an increase in eye pressure (intraocular pressure) in some patients within 60 minutes of the injection. The baby's doctor will monitor this after each injection.
- if the baby develops an infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis) or other complications, the baby may have **redness/irritation of the eye, ocular discharge, lid swelling and increased sensitivity to light**. It is important to have any symptoms diagnosed and treated as soon as possible.  
**Please tell the baby's doctor immediately if the baby develops any signs or symptoms outlined.**
- the baby's doctor will check whether the baby has other risk factors that may increase the chance of a tear or detachment of one of the layers at the back of the eye (retinal detachment or tear), in which case Eylea must be given with caution.

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye.

There is no experience in the treatment of

- patients with acute infections
- patients with other eye conditions such as a detachment of the retina or a hole in the macula

If any of the above applies to the baby, the baby's doctor will consider this lack of information when treating the baby with Eylea.

### **Other medicines and Eylea**

Tell the baby's doctor if the baby is receiving, has recently received or might receive any other medicines.

### **Important information about some of the ingredients of Eylea**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How the baby will be given Eylea**

A doctor experienced in giving eye injections will inject Eylea into the baby's eyes under aseptic (clean and sterile) conditions.

The recommended dose is 0.4 mg aflibercept (0.01 mL).

Eylea is given as an injection into the baby's eye (intravitreal injection).

Before the injection the baby's doctor will use a disinfectant eyewash to clean the baby's eye carefully to prevent infection. The baby's doctor will also give the baby a local anaesthetic to reduce or prevent any pain the baby might have with the injection.

The treatment is started with a single injection per eye and may be given into the second eye on the same day. The baby's doctor will monitor the condition of the baby's eye(s). Depending on how the baby responds to the treatment, the baby's doctor will decide if and when further treatment is needed. The treatment interval between the 2 doses injected into the same eye should be at least 4 weeks.

Detailed instructions for use are given at the end of the leaflet under "How to prepare and administer Eylea to preterm infants".

### Stopping treatment with Eylea

If you are considering stopping Eylea treatment for the baby, please discuss this with the baby's doctor at your next appointment. The baby's doctor will advise you and decide how long the baby should be treated with Eylea.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask the baby's doctor.

#### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

##### Side effects reported in more than one baby born prematurely were

- **detachment of the layer in the back of the eye** (retinal detachment)
- **bleeding in the back of the eye** (retinal haemorrhage)
- **bloodshot eye** caused by bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye (conjunctival haemorrhage)
- **bleeding at the injection site** (injection site haemorrhage)
- **increase in eye pressure**
- **swelling of the eyelid** (eyelid oedema)

**Additional side effects** that have been observed with Eylea **in adults** are listed below. These side effects may also occur in babies born prematurely

- **allergic reactions** (hypersensitivity)

**These may be serious and require that you contact the baby's doctor immediately.**

Side effects affecting the eyes due to the injection procedure may be **serious** and include

- **blindness**
- a serious **infection or inflammation** inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
- **detachment, tear or bleeding** of the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye (retinal detachment or tear)
- **clouding of the lens** (cataract)
- **bleeding in the eye** (vitreous haemorrhage)
- **detachment** of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina (vitreous detachment)
- **increase of pressure** inside the eye (intraocular pressure increased), see section 2

These serious side effects affecting the eyes occurred in less than 1 in 1,900 injections in clinical studies in adults.

It is important to identify and treat serious side effects such as infection inside the eye or retinal detachment as soon as possible.

**Tell the baby's doctor immediately if you notice symptoms in the baby's eye after injection such as**

- **redness/irritation**
- **ocular discharge**
- **lid swelling**
- **increased sensitivity to light**

Other side effects observed in adults are described below.

##### List of side effects reported

The following is a list of the side effects reported to be possibly related to the injection procedure or to the medicine. Please do not get alarmed, the baby might not experience any of these. Always discuss any suspected side effects with the baby's doctor.

**Very common side effects** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- deterioration of eyesight
- bleeding in the back of the eye (retinal haemorrhage)
- bloodshot eye caused by bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye
- eye pain

**Common side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- detachment or tear of one of the layers in the back of the eye, resulting in flashes of light with floaters sometimes progressing to a loss of vision (retinal pigment epithelial tear\*/detachment, retinal detachment/tear)
  - o \* Conditions known to be associated with wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD); observed in wet AMD patients only.
- degeneration of the retina causing disturbed vision
- bleeding in the eye (vitreous haemorrhage)
- certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract)
- damage to the front layer of the eyeball (the cornea)
- increase in eye pressure
- moving spots in vision (floaters)
- detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina (vitreous detachment, resulting in flashes of light with floaters)
- a feeling of having something in the eye
- increased tear production
- swelling of the eyelid
- bleeding at the injection site
- redness of the eye

**Uncommon side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- allergic reactions (hypersensitivity)\*\*
  - o \*\* Allergic reactions like rash, itching (pruritus), hives (urticaria), and a few cases of severe allergy (anaphylactic/anaphylactoid) reactions were reported.
- serious inflammation or infection inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
- inflammation in the iris or other parts of the eye (iritis, uveitis, iridocyclitis, anterior chamber flare)
- abnormal sensation in the eye
- eyelid irritation
- swelling of the front layer of the eyeball (cornea)

**Rare side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- blindness
- clouding of the lens due to injury (traumatic cataract)
- inflammation of the gel-like substance inside the eye
- pus in the eye

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye.

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a possibility for an immune reaction (formation of antibodies) with Eylea.

If you have any questions about any side effects, ask the baby's doctor.

## Reporting of side effects

If you observe any side effects in the baby, talk to the baby's doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in [Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store Eylea

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store in a refrigerator (2 °C to 8 °C). Do not freeze.
- The unopened blister may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours.
- Store in the original package in order to protect from light.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What Eylea contains

- The active substance is: aflibercept. One pre-filled syringe contains an extractable volume of at least 0.09 mL, equivalent to at least 3.6 mg aflibercept. One pre-filled syringe delivers a single dose of 0.4 mg aflibercept in 0.01 mL.
- The other ingredients are: polysorbate 20 (E 432), sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate (for pH adjustment), disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate (for pH adjustment), sodium chloride, sucrose, water for injections.

### What Eylea looks like and contents of the pack

Eylea is a solution for injection (injection) in a pre-filled syringe. The solution is colourless to pale yellow.

Pack size of 1 pre-filled syringe.

### Marketing Authorisation Holder

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### Manufacturer

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**This leaflet was last revised in**

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website:

<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

**The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:**

### **How to prepare and administer Eylea to preterm infants**

The pre-filled syringe should only be used **for the treatment of a single eye**. Extraction of multiple doses from a pre-filled syringe may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

Do not open the sterile pre-filled blister outside the clean administration room. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

The pre-filled syringe contains more than the recommended dose of 0.4 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.01 mL). For treatment of preterm infants, the PICLEO paediatric dosing device in combination with the pre-filled syringe must be used for administration of a single dose of 0.4 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.01 mL). See following section “***Instructions for use of pre-filled syringe***”.

The solution should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or discolouration or any variation in physical appearance prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the medicinal product.

The unopened blister may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours. After opening the blister, proceed under aseptic conditions.

For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

#### ***Instructions for use of pre-filled syringe:***

To prepare the pre-filled syringe for administration to preterm infants, follow the-steps 1 and 2 below and then adhere to the instructions for use included in the package of the PICLEO paediatric dosing device.

1. When ready to administer Eylea, open the carton and remove the sterilised blister. Carefully peel open the blister ensuring the sterility of its contents. Keep the syringe in the sterile tray until you are ready for assembly.
2. Using aseptic technique, remove the syringe from the sterilised blister.

## Package Leaflet: Information for the patient

### Eylea 40 mg/mL solution for injection in a vial aflibercept

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Eylea is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Eylea
3. How you will be given Eylea
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Eylea
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Eylea is and what it is used for**

Eylea is a solution which is injected into the eye to treat eye conditions in adults called

- neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD),
- impaired vision due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO (BRVO) or central RVO (CRVO)),
- impaired vision due to diabetic macular oedema (DME),
- impaired vision due to myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV).

Aflibercept, the active substance in Eylea, blocks the activity of a group of factors, known as Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor A (VEGF-A) and Placental Growth Factor (PlGF).

In patients with wet AMD and myopic CNV, these factors, in excess are involved in the abnormal formation of new blood vessels in the eye. These new blood vessels can cause the leak of blood components into the eye and eventual damage to tissues in the eye responsible for vision.

In patients with CRVO, a blockage occurs in the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina. VEGF levels are elevated in response causing the leakage of fluid into the retina and thereby causing a swelling of the macula, (the portion of the retina responsible for fine vision), which is called macular oedema. When the macula swells with fluid, central vision becomes blurry.

In patients with BRVO, one or more branches of the main blood vessel that transports blood away from the retina is blocked. VEGF levels are elevated in response causing the leakage of fluid into the retina and thereby causing macular oedema.

Diabetic macular oedema is a swelling of the retina occurring in patients with diabetes due to leaking of fluid from blood vessels within the macula. The macula is the portion of retina responsible for fine vision. When the macula swells with fluid, central vision becomes blurry.

Eylea has been shown to stop the growth of new abnormal blood vessels in the eye which often leak fluid or bleed. Eylea can help to stabilise, and in many cases, improve the vision loss related to wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV.

## 2. What you need to know before you are given Eylea

### You will not be given Eylea

- if you are allergic to aflibercept or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you have an active or suspected infection in or around the eye (ocular or periocular infection).
- if you have severe inflammation of the eye (indicated by pain or redness).

### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before you are given Eylea:

- if you have glaucoma.
- if you have a history of seeing flashes of light or floaters and if you have a sudden increase of size and number of floaters.
- if surgery was performed or is planned on your eye within the previous or next four weeks.
- if you have a severe form of CRVO or BRVO (ischaemic CRVO or BRVO), treatment with Eylea is not recommended.

Furthermore, it is important for you to know that:

- the safety and efficacy of Eylea when administered to both eyes at the same time has not been studied and if used in this way may lead to an increased risk of experiencing side effects.
- injections with Eylea may cause an increase in eye pressure (intraocular pressure) in some patients within 60 minutes of the injection. Your doctor will monitor this after each injection.
- if you develop an infection or inflammation inside the eye (endophthalmitis) or other complications, you may have eye pain or increased discomfort, worsening eye redness, blurred or decreased vision, and increased sensitivity to light. It is important to have any symptoms diagnosed and treated as soon as possible.
- your doctor will check whether you have other risk factors that may increase the chance of a tear or detachment of one of the layers at the back of the eye (retinal detachment or tear, and retinal pigment epithelial detachment or tear), in which case Eylea must be given with caution.
- Eylea should not be used in pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the unborn child.
- women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least three further months after the last injection of Eylea.

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye. There are limited data on safety in treating patients with CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV who have had a stroke or a mini-stroke (transient ischaemic attack) or a heart attack within the last 6 months. If any of these apply to you, Eylea will be given with caution.

There is only limited experience in the treatment of

- patients with DME due to type I diabetes.
- diabetics with very high average blood sugar values (HbA1c over 12%).
- diabetics with an eye disease caused by diabetes called proliferative diabetic retinopathy.



There is no experience in the treatment of

- patients with acute infections.
- patients with other eye conditions such as a detachment of the retina or a hole in the macula.
- diabetics with uncontrolled high blood pressure.
- non-Asian patients with myopic CNV.
- patients previously treated for myopic CNV.
- patients with damage outside the central part of the macula (extrafoveal lesions) for myopic CNV.

If any of the above applies to you, your doctor will consider this lack of information when treating you with Eylea.

### **Children and adolescents**

The use of Eylea in children or adolescents under 18 has not been studied because wet AMD, CRVO, BRVO, DME and myopic CNV occur mainly in adults. Therefore, its use in this age group is not relevant.

### **Other medicines and Eylea**

Tell your doctor if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

- Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least three further months after the last injection of Eylea.
- There is no experience of using Eylea in pregnant women. Eylea should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the unborn child. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, discuss this with your doctor before treatment with Eylea.
- Small amounts of Eylea may pass into human milk. The effects on breast-fed newborns/infants are unknown. Eylea is not recommended during breast-feeding. If you are a breastfeeding woman, discuss this with your doctor before treatment with Eylea.

### **Driving and using machines**

After your injection with Eylea, you may experience some temporary visual disturbances. Do not drive or use machines as long as these last.

### **Important information about some of the ingredients of Eylea**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How you will be given Eylea**

A doctor experienced in giving eye injections will inject Eylea into your eye under aseptic (clean and sterile) conditions.

The recommended dose is 2 mg aflibercept (0.05 mL).

Eylea is given as an injection into your eye (intravitreal injection).

Before the injection your doctor will use a disinfectant eyewash to clean your eye carefully to prevent infection. Your doctor will also give you a local anaesthetic to reduce or prevent any pain you might have with the injection.

### wet AMD

Patients with wet AMD will be treated with one injection per month for three consecutive doses, followed by another injection after a further two months.

Your doctor will then decide whether the treatment interval between injections may be kept at every two months or be gradually extended in 2- or 4-weekly intervals if your condition has been stable.

If your condition worsens, the interval between injections can be shortened.

Unless you experience any problems or are advised differently by your doctor, there is no need for you to see your doctor between the injections.

### Macular oedema secondary to RVO (branch RVO or central RVO)

Your doctor will determine the most appropriate treatment schedule for you. You will start your treatment with a series of monthly Eylea injections.

The interval between two injections should not be shorter than one month.

Your doctor may decide to stop treatment with Eylea, if you are not benefiting from continued treatment.

Your treatment will continue with monthly injections until your condition is stable. Three or more monthly injections may be needed.

Your doctor will monitor your response to treatment and may continue your treatment by gradually increasing the interval between your injections to maintain a stable condition. If your condition starts to worsen with a longer treatment interval, your doctor will shorten the interval accordingly.

Based on your response to treatment your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations and treatments.

### Diabetic macular oedema (DME)

Patients with DME will be treated with one injection per month for the first five consecutive doses followed by one injection every two months thereafter.

Treatment interval may be kept at every two months or adjusted to your condition, based on your doctor's examination. Your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations.

Your doctor may decide to stop treatment with Eylea if it is determined that you are not benefiting from continued treatment.

### Myopic CNV

Patients with myopic CNV will be treated with one single injection. You will receive further injections only if your doctor's examinations reveal that your condition has not improved.

The interval between two injections should not be shorter than one month.

If your condition goes away and then comes back, your doctor may re-start the treatment.

Your doctor will decide on the schedule for follow up examinations.

### **If a dose of Eylea is missed**

Make a new appointment for an examination and injection.

## Stopping treatment with Eylea

Consult your doctor before stopping the treatment.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor.

### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Allergic reactions** (hypersensitivity) could potentially occur. **These may be serious and require that you contact your doctor immediately.**

With administration of Eylea, there may be some side effects affecting the eyes which are due to the injection procedure. Some of these may be **serious** and include **blindness, a serious infection or inflammation inside the eye** (endophthalmitis), **detachment, tear or bleeding of the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye** (retinal detachment or tear), **clouding of the lens** (cataract), **bleeding in the eye** (vitreous haemorrhage), **detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina** (vitreous detachment) and **increase of pressure inside the eye**, see section 2. These serious side effects affecting the eyes occurred in less than 1 in 1,900 injections in clinical studies.

If you experience a sudden decrease in vision, or an increase in pain and redness in your eye after your injection, **contact your doctor immediately.**

#### List of side effects reported

The following is a list of the side effects reported to be possibly related to the injection procedure or to the medicine. Please do not get alarmed, you might not experience any of these. Always discuss any suspected side effects with your doctor.

#### **Very common side effects** (*may affect more than 1 in 10 people*):

- deterioration of eyesight
- bleeding in the back of the eye (retinal haemorrhage)
- bloodshot eye caused by bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye
- eye pain

#### **Common side effects** (*may affect up to 1 in 10 people*):

- detachment or tear of one of the layers in the back of the eye, resulting in flashes of light with floaters sometimes progressing to a loss of vision (retinal pigment epithelial tear\*/detachment, retinal detachment/tear)
- degeneration of the retina (causing disturbed vision)
- bleeding in the eye (vitreous haemorrhage)
- certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract)
- damage to the front layer of the eyeball (the cornea)
- increase in eye pressure
- moving spots in vision (floaters)
- detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye from the retina (vitreous detachment, resulting in flashes of light with floaters)
- a feeling of having something in the eye
- increased tear production
- swelling of the eyelid
- bleeding at the injection site
- redness of the eye

\* Conditions known to be associated with wet AMD; observed in wet AMD patients only.

**Uncommon side effects** (*may affect up to 1 in 100 people*):

- allergic reactions (hypersensitivity)\*\*
  - serious inflammation or infection inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
  - inflammation in the iris or other parts of the eye (iritis, uveitis, iridocyclitis, anterior chamber flare)
  - abnormal sensation in the eye
  - eyelid irritation
  - swelling of the front layer of the eyeball (cornea)
- \*\* Allergic reactions like rash, itching (pruritus), hives (urticaria), and a few cases of severe allergy (anaphylactic/anaphylactoid) reactions were reported.

**Rare side effects** (*may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people*):

- blindness
- clouding of the lens due to injury (traumatic cataract)
- inflammation of the gel-like substance inside the eye
- pus in the eye

In the clinical trials, there was an increased incidence of bleeding from small blood vessels in the outer layers of the eye (conjunctival haemorrhage) in patients with wet AMD receiving blood thinners. This increased incidence was comparable between patients treated with ranibizumab and Eylea.

The systemic use of VEGF inhibitors, substances similar to those contained in Eylea, is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels (arterial thromboembolic events) which may lead to heart attack or stroke. There is a theoretical risk of such events following injection of Eylea into the eye.

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a possibility for an immune reaction (formation of antibodies) with Eylea.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in [Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. How to store Eylea**

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C). Do not freeze.
- The unopened vial may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25°C for up to 24 hours.
- Store in the original package in order to protect from light.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

**6. Contents of the pack and other information**

**What Eylea contains**

- The active substance is: aflibercept. One vial contains an extractable volume of at least 0.1 mL, equivalent to at least 4 mg aflibercept. One vial delivers a dose of 2 mg aflibercept in 0.05 mL.
- The other ingredients are: polysorbate 20 (E 432), sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate (for pH adjustment), disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate (for pH adjustment), sodium chloride, sucrose, water for injections.

### **What Eylea looks like and contents of the pack**

Eylea is a solution for injection (injection) in a vial. The solution is colourless to pale yellow.  
Pack size of 1 vial + 1 filter needle.

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#### **Danmark**

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#### **Deutschland**

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#### **Eesti**

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#### **Ελλάδα**

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#### **España**

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#### **France**

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#### **Hrvatska**

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#### **Magyarország**

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#### **Malta**

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#### **Nederland**

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#### **Norge**

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#### **Österreich**

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#### **Polska**

Bayer Sp. z o.o.  
Tel: +48-22-572 35 00

#### **Portugal**

Bayer Portugal, Lda.  
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#### **România**

SC Bayer SRL  
Tel: +40-(0)21-529 59 00

#### **Slovenija**

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**Italia**

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**Latvija**

SIA Bayer  
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**This leaflet was last revised in**

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website:  
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

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**The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:**

The vial should only be used **for the treatment of a single eye**.

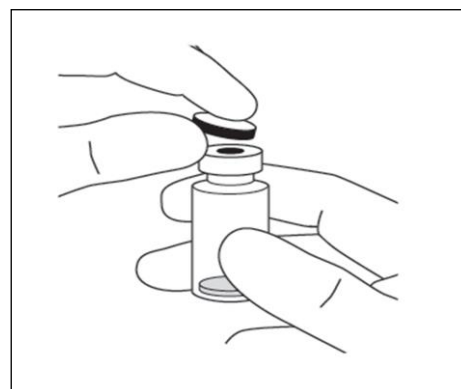
The vial contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg aflibercept (equivalent to 0.05 mL). The excess volume must be discarded prior to administration.

The solution should be inspected visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or discolouration or any variation in physical appearance prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the medicinal product.

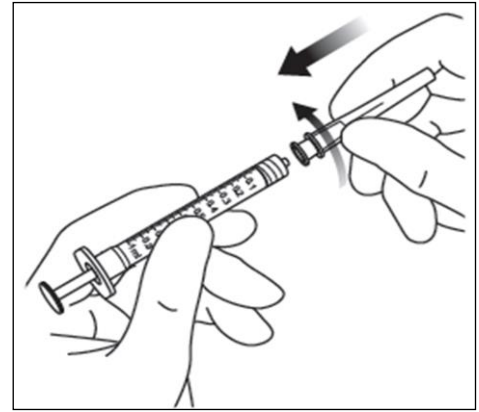
The unopened vial may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25° C for up to 24 hours. After opening the vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.  
For the intravitreal injection, a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle should be used.

***Instructions for use of vial:***

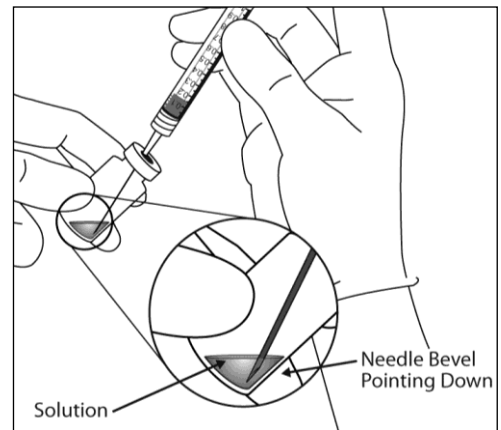
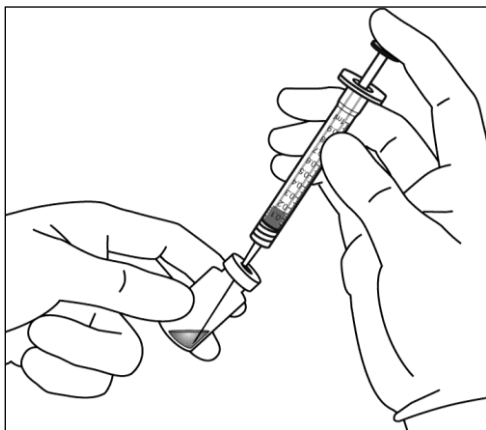
1. Remove the plastic cap and disinfect the outer part of the rubber stopper of the vial.



2. Attach the 18 G, 5-micron filter needle supplied in the carton to a 1 mL sterile Luer-lock syringe.

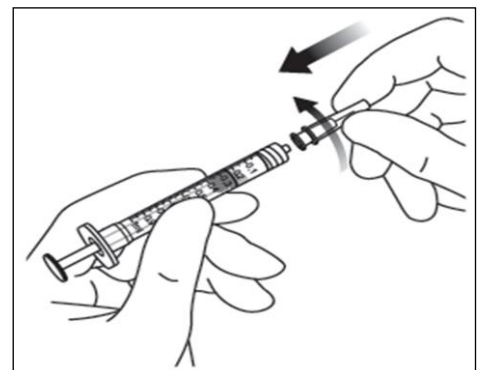


3. Push the filter needle into the centre of the vial stopper until the needle is completely inserted into the vial and the tip touches the bottom or bottom edge of the vial.
4. Using aseptic technique withdraw all of the Eylea vial contents into the syringe, keeping the vial in an upright position, slightly inclined to ease complete withdrawal. To deter the introduction of air, ensure the bevel of the filter needle is submerged into the liquid. Continue to tilt the vial during withdrawal keeping the bevel of the filter needle submerged in the liquid.

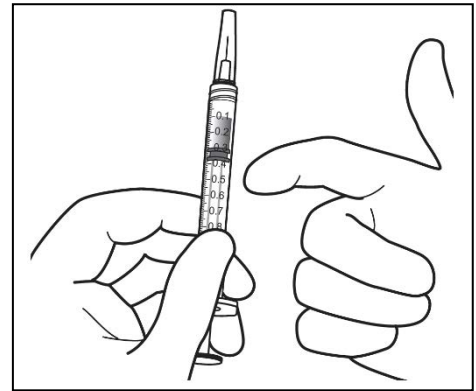


5. Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial in order to completely empty the filter needle.
6. Remove the filter needle and properly dispose of it.  
Note: Filter needle is not to be used for intravitreal injection.

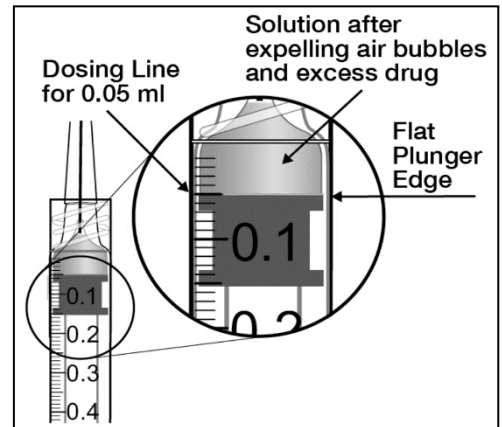
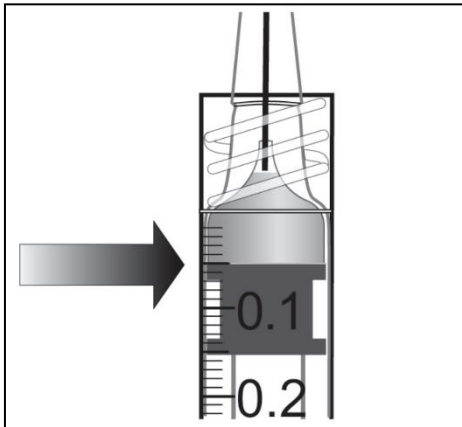
7. Using aseptic technique, firmly twist a 30 G x ½ inch injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.



8. Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.



9. Eliminate all bubbles and expel excess medicinal product by slowly depressing the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks 0.05 mL on the syringe.



10. The vial is for single use only. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.



## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

### Eylea 114.3 mg/ml solution for injection aflibercept

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet

1. What Eylea is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you receive Eylea
3. How Eylea will be given
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Eylea
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Eylea is and what it is used for

##### What Eylea is

Eylea contains the active substance aflibercept. It belongs to a group of medicines called antineovascularisation agents.

Your doctor will inject Eylea into your eye to treat eye disorders in adults called:

- wet age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD)
- visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DME).

These disorders affect the macula. The macula is the central part of the light sensitive membrane at the back of the eye. It is responsible for clear vision.

Wet AMD is caused when abnormal blood vessels form and grow below the macula. The abnormal blood vessels may leak fluid or blood into the eye. Leaky blood vessels that cause swelling of the macula cause DME. Both disorders may impact your vision.

##### How Eylea works

Eylea stops growth of new abnormal blood vessels in the eye. Eylea can help to stabilise and often improve vision.

#### 2. What you need to know before you receive Eylea

##### You will not receive Eylea if you

- are allergic to aflibercept or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- have an infection in or around the eye
- have pain or redness in your eye (severe eye inflammation).

##### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor **before receiving** Eylea if you:

- have glaucoma – an eye condition caused by high pressure in the eye
- have a history of seeing flashes of light or dark floating spots and if their size or number suddenly increases
- had eye surgery in the last 4 weeks or eye surgery is planned in the next 4 weeks.

Tell your doctor **immediately if** you develop:

- redness of the eye
- eye pain
- increased discomfort
- blurred or decreased vision
- increased sensitivity to light

These may be symptoms of an inflammation or infection and your doctor may stop giving you Eylea.

Furthermore, it is important for you to know that:

- the safety and efficacy of Eylea when administered to both eyes at the same time have not been studied and such use may increase risk of experiencing side effects.
- injections with Eylea may cause an increase in eye pressure in some patients within 60 minutes of the injection. Your doctor will monitor this after each injection.
- your doctor will check for other risk factors that may increase the chance of a tear or detachment of one of the layers at the back of the eye. In such cases your doctor will give you Eylea with caution.
- women who could become pregnant must use effective birth control during treatment and for at least 4 months after the last injection of Eylea.

The use of substances similar to those contained in Eylea is potentially related to the risk of blood clots blocking blood vessels, which may lead to heart attack or stroke. Theoretically, this could also happen after an injection of Eylea into the eye. If you had a stroke, a mini-stroke or a heart attack within the last 6 months, your doctor will give you Eylea with caution.

### **Children and adolescents**

The use of Eylea in children or adolescents under 18 has not been studied because the diseases indicated occur mainly in adults. Therefore, its use in this age group is not relevant.

### **Other medicines and Eylea**

Tell your doctor if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

- Women who could become pregnant must use effective birth control during treatment and for at least 4 months after the last injection of Eylea.
- There is limited experience on the use of Eylea in pregnant women. Women should not receive Eylea during pregnancy unless the potential benefit to the woman outweighs the potential risk to the unborn child.
- Small amounts of Eylea may pass into human milk. The effect on breast-fed newborns/infants are unknown. Eylea is not recommended during breast-feeding.

Therefore, if you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before you receive this medicine.

### **Driving and using machines**

After receiving Eylea, you may experience some temporary vision problems. Do not drive or use machines as long as these last.

## **3. How Eylea will be given**

The recommended dose is 8 mg aflibercept per injection.

- You will receive 1 injection every month for the first 3 months.
- After that, you may receive injections up to every 5 months. Your doctor will decide on the frequency based on the condition of your eye.

### **Method of administration**

Your doctor will inject Eylea into your eye (intravitreal injection).

Before the injection, your doctor will use a disinfectant eyewash to clean your eye carefully to prevent infection. Your doctor will give you an eye drop (local anaesthetic) to numb the eye to reduce or prevent pain from the injection.

### **If you missed a dose of Eylea**

Make a new appointment with your doctor as soon as possible.

### **Before stopping Eylea treatment**

Speak with your doctor before stopping treatment. Stopping treatment may increase your risk of vision loss and your vision may worsen.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor.

## **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The side effects of Eylea injection are either from the medicine itself or from the injection procedure and mostly affect the eye.

### **Some side effects could be serious**

Contact your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:

- common side effect, which may affect up to 1 in 10 people
  - clouding of the lens (cataract)
  - bleeding in the back of the eye (retinal haemorrhage)
  - increase of pressure inside the eye
  - bleeding inside the eye (vitreous haemorrhage)
- uncommon side effect, which may affect up to 1 in 100 people
  - certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract subcapsular/nuclear)
  - detachment, tear or bleeding of the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye, resulting in flashes of light with floaters, sometimes progressing to a loss of vision (retinal detachment or tear)

### **Other possible side effects**

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- allergic reactions
- moving spot in your vision (vitreous floaters)
- detachment of the gel-like substance inside the eye (vitreous detachment)
- reduced sharpness of vision
- eye pain
- bleeding inside the eye (conjunctival haemorrhage)
- damage to the clear layer of the eyeball in front of the iris (punctate keratitis, corneal abrasion)

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- detachment or tear of one of the layers in the back of the eye, resulting in flashes of light with floaters, sometimes progressing to a loss of vision (retinal pigment epithelial tear/detachment)
- inflammation in the iris, of other parts of the eye, or the gel-like substance inside the eye (uveitis, iritis, iridocyclitis, vitritis)
- certain forms of clouding of the lens (cataract cortical)
- damage to the front layer of the eyeball (corneal erosion)
- blurred vision
- eye pain at injection site
- a feeling of having something in the eye
- increased tear production
- bleeding at the injection site
- redness of the eye
- swelling of the eyelid
- redness of the eye (ocular hyperaemia)
- irritation at injection site

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1 000 people):

- swelling of the front layer of the eyeball (corneal oedema)
- clouding of the lens (lenticular opacities)
- degeneration of the light sensitive membrane at the back of the eye (retinal degeneration)
- eyelid irritation

Besides the above the following side effects may occur although they have not been reported in clinical studies:

- abnormal sensation in eye
- damage to the surface of the clear front layer of the eye (corneal epithelium defect)
- inflammation of other parts of the eye (anterior chamber flare)
- serious inflammation or infection inside the eye (endophthalmitis)
- blindness
- clouding of the lens due to injury (traumatic cataract)
- pus in the eye (hypopyon)
- severe allergic reactions

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Eylea**

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C). Do not freeze.
- The unopened vial may be stored outside the refrigerator below 25 °C for up to 24 hours.
- Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Eylea contains**

- The active substance is aflibercept. 1 ml solution contains 114.3 mg aflibercept. Each vial contains 0.263 ml. This provides a usable amount to deliver a single dose of 0.07 ml containing 8 mg aflibercept.
- The other ingredients are: sucrose, arginine hydrochloride, histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, histidine, polysorbate 20, water for injections.

### **What Eylea looks like and contents of the pack**

Eylea is a solution for injection (injection). The solution is colourless to pale yellow.

Pack size: 1 vial + 1 filter needle.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Bayer AG  
51368 Leverkusen  
Germany

### **Manufacturer**

Bayer AG  
Müllerstraße 178  
13353 Berlin  
Germany

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

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**Nederland**

Bayer B.V.  
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**Norge**

Bayer AS  
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**Österreich**

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**Polska**

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**Portugal**

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**România**

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Tel: +40 21 529 59 00

**Slovenija**

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**Slovenská republika**

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**Sverige**

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**United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)**

Bayer AG  
Tel: +44-(0)118 206 3000

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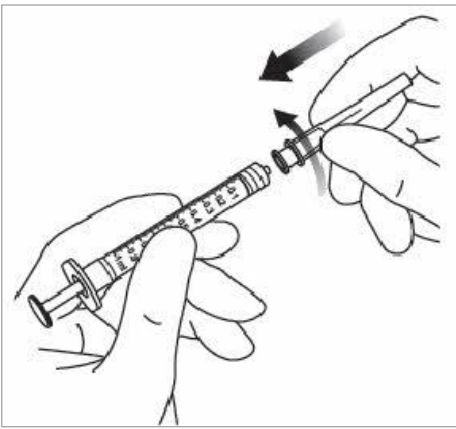
Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site:  
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

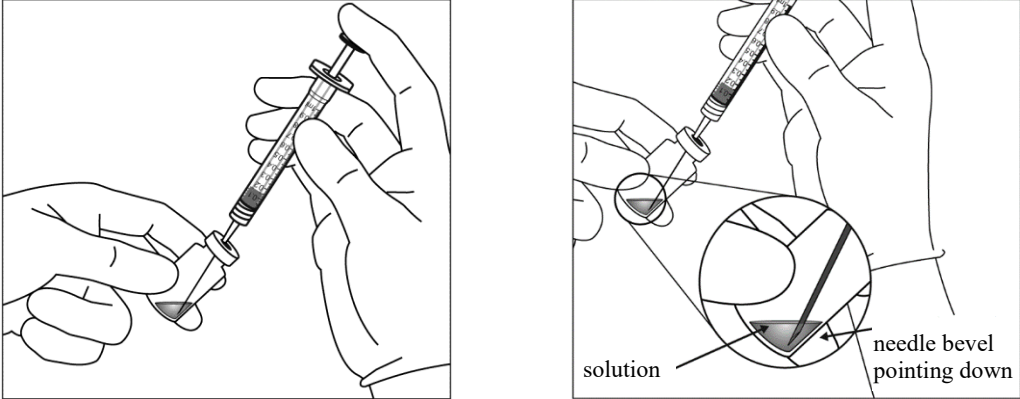
The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

The vial is for single use in one eye only. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection.

**Do not** use if the package or its components are expired, damaged, or have been tampered with. Check the label on the vial to make sure you have the strength of Eylea that you intended to use. The 8 mg dose requires use of the Eylea 114.3 mg/ml vial.

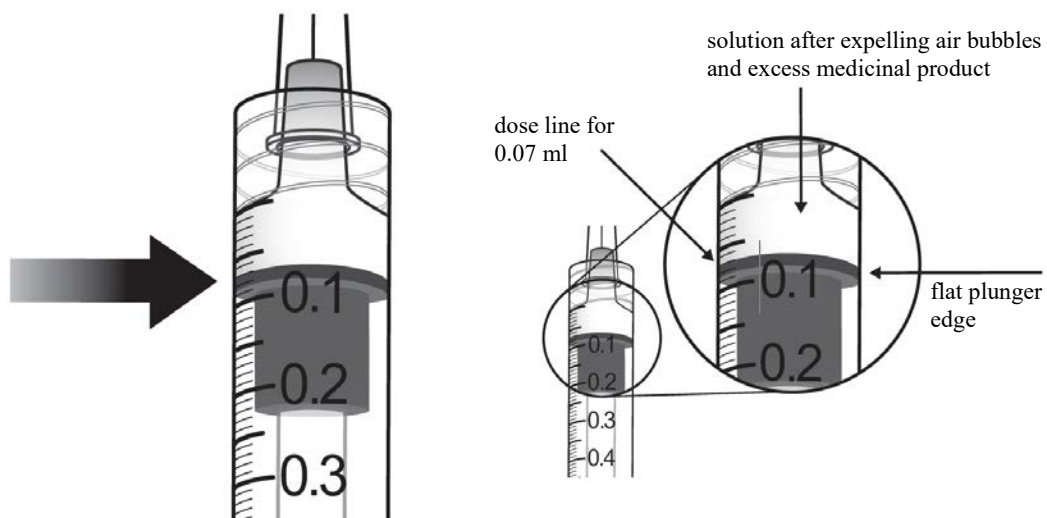
The intravitreal injection should be performed with a 30 G × ½ inch injection needle (not included). Use of a smaller size needle (higher gauge) than the recommended 30 G × ½ inch injection needle may result in increased injection forces.

1.	Prior to administration visually inspect the solution for injection. <b>Do not</b> use the vial if particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible.
2.	Remove the plastic cap and disinfect the outer part of the rubber stopper of the vial. 
3.	Use aseptic technique to carry out steps 3-10. Attach the filter needle supplied in the carton to a 1-ml sterile, Luer-lock syringe. 
4.	Push the filter needle into the centre of the vial stopper until the needle is completely inserted into the vial and the tip touches the bottom or bottom edge of the vial.

5.	<p>Withdraw all of the Eylea vial content into the syringe, keeping the vial in an upright position, slightly inclined to ease complete withdrawal. To deter the introduction of air, ensure the bevel of the filter needle is submerged into the liquid. Continue to tilt the vial during withdrawal keeping the bevel of the filter needle submerged in the liquid.</p>
	
6.	<p>Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial to completely empty the filter needle. After injection any unused product must be discarded.</p>
7.	<p>Remove the filter needle and properly dispose of it. <b>Note:</b> The filter needle is <b>not</b> to be used for the intravitreal injection.</p>
8.	<p>Firmly twist the 30 G × ½ inch injection needle onto the Luer-lock syringe tip.</p>
9.	<p>Holding the syringe with the needle pointing up, check the syringe for bubbles. If there are bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top.</p>



10. To eliminate all bubbles and to expel excess medicinal product, slowly depress the plunger so that the flat plunger edge aligns with the line that marks **0.07 ml** on the syringe.



Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.