

# Online Medical Education Can Significantly Improve Ophthalmologists' Knowledge and Confidence When Using Longer-Acting Therapies in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD) and Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

**Siggi Trier; Kate Carpenter; Tiphaine Barras:** Medscape, LLC, New York, NY, USA

Siggi Trier is a consultant for Medscape Education Global; Kate Carpenter and Tiphaine Barras are employees of Medscape

**Clare Bailey:** Bristol Eye Hospital, Bristol, United Kingdom

Clare Bailey is a consultant/advisor for Alimera Sciences, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc, Janssen Biotech Inc, Novartis, Roche and is a speaker or member of a speaker's bureau for Alimera Sciences, Apellis, Bayer, Roche and receives research funding from Alimera Sciences, Apellis, Bayer, Novartis, Roche

**Veeral Sheth:** University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, United States, University Retina and Macula Associates Chicago, Chicago, IL, United States

Veeral Sheth is a consultant/advisor for Alimera Sciences, Apellis, Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals, Genentech, Graybug, IvericBio, Novartis, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc and a speaker or member of a speakers bureau for Alimera Sciences, Apellis, Genentech, Iveric Bio and receives research funding from 4D Molecular Therapeutics, AbbVie Inc, Adverum Biotechnologies, Alimera Sciences, Allergan Inc, Ashvattha Therapeutics, Chengdu Kanghong, Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals, Genentech, Gyroscope Therapeutics, i-Lumen Scientific, Ionis, Iveric Bio, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, NGM Biopharmaceuticals, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutix, OcuTerra, OliX Pharmaceuticals, Opthea Therapeutics, Outlook Therapeutics, Oxurion, Recens Medical, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc, RegenXBio, RevOpsis, Roche, SalutarisMD, SamChungDang, Santen Pharmaceuticals, Unity Biotechnology, Vanotech

**Nicole Eter:** University of Münster, Department of Ophthalmology, Münster, Germany

Nicole Eter is a consultant/advisor for Alcon Laboratories Corp, Allergan Inc, Apellis, Bayer, Novartis, Roche, a speaker or member of a speakers bureau for Alcon Laboratories Corp, Allergan Inc, Apellis, Bayer, Novartis, Roche and receives research funding from Apellis, Bayer, Novartis and is a contracted researcher for Bayer, Novartis, Roche

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For more information contact Kate Carpenter at [kcarpenter@webmd.net](mailto:kcarpenter@webmd.net)

## **BACKGROUND**

New nAMD and DME therapies that allow extended treatment intervals to 12 weeks and beyond are now available. This offers the potential to reduce treatment burden for most patients and physicians, but fewer visits affect the frequency of safety monitoring.

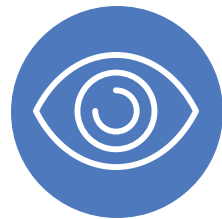
## **PURPOSE**

We aimed to determine if online medical education could increase knowledge on real-world evidence (RWE) for those therapeutics, improve choice of imaging modalities for monitoring, and improve confidence in using longer acting therapeutics when extending intervals.



## METHODS

An online 30-minute CPD-certified roundtable discussion with 3 faculty experts, with accompanying, synchronized, downloadable slides and activity transcript

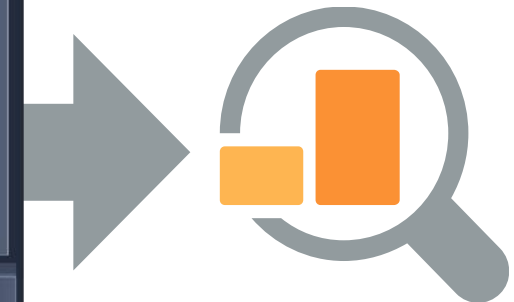
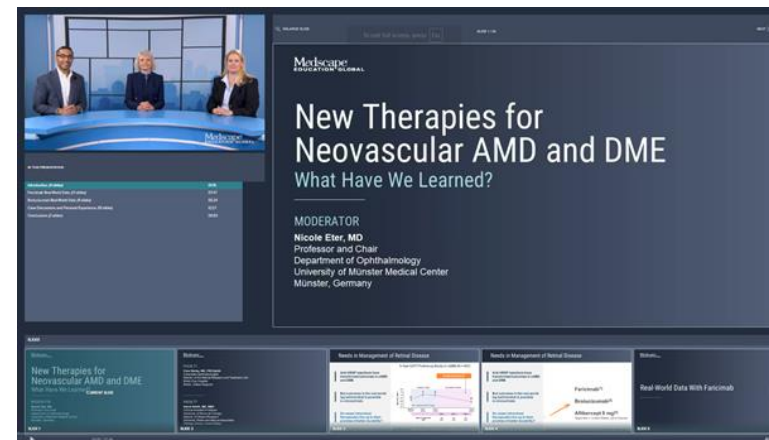


### Ophthalmologists

Assessment completers: 262 ophthalmologists

Target audience reached > 4800 learners

Launch Oct 23, 2023; data through to Nov 19, 2024

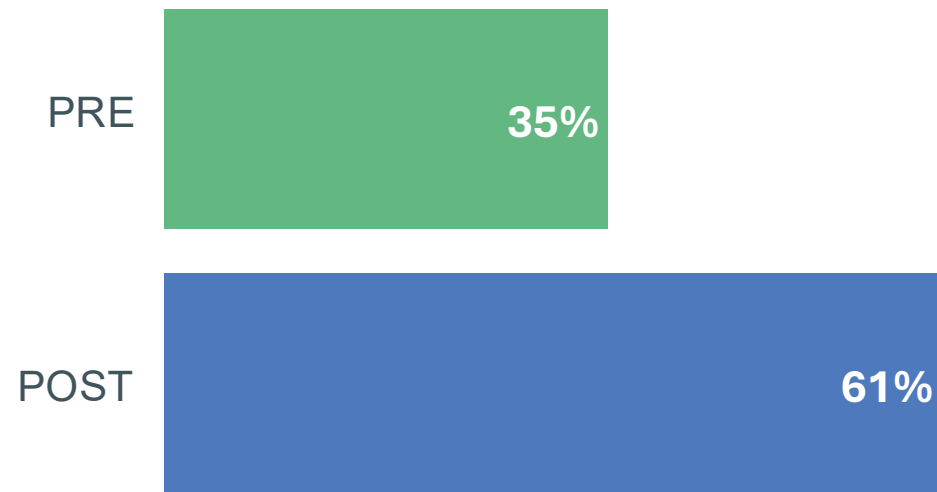


<https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/997563>

# RESULTS

## AVERAGE % OF QUESTIONS CORRECT

### AGGREGATED RESULTS



### CHI-SQUARE TEST

**$P < .001$**

### COHEN'S d

**0.84**

EFFECT SIZE	EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
< .20	MODEST
.20 - .49	SMALL
.5 - .79	MODERATE
<b>≥0.80</b>	<b>LARGE</b>

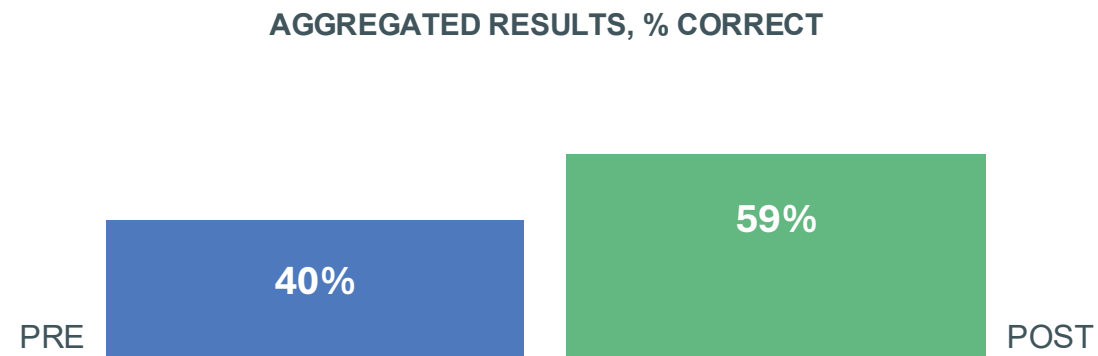
Cohen's d with correction for paired samples estimated the effect size of the education on number of correct responses (<.20 modest, .20-.49 small, .59-.79 moderate, ≥.80 large).

## QUESTION 1 RESULTS

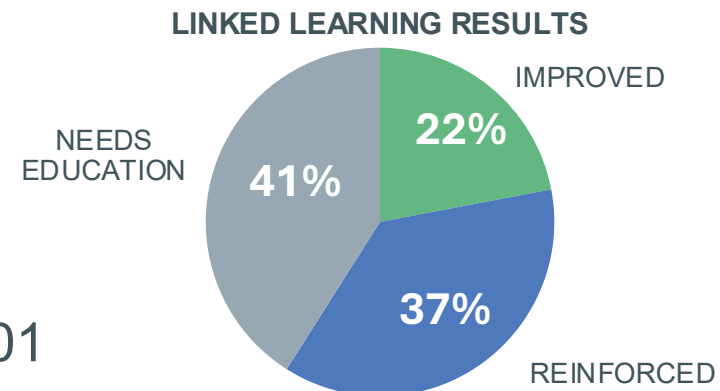
### Significantly increased RWE data recall on novel therapies' durability

Ophthalmologists (n = 262)

In a systematic review of brolucizumab real-world evidence, 4 studies reported data on treatment intervals, and 1 study reported durability in treatment-naïve patients. In treatment-naïve patients in routine clinical practice, what proportion of patients achieved 12-week intervals with brolucizumab? (**CORRECT ANSWER: 64%**; INCORRECT ANSWERS: 24%; 44%; 84%)



$P < .001$

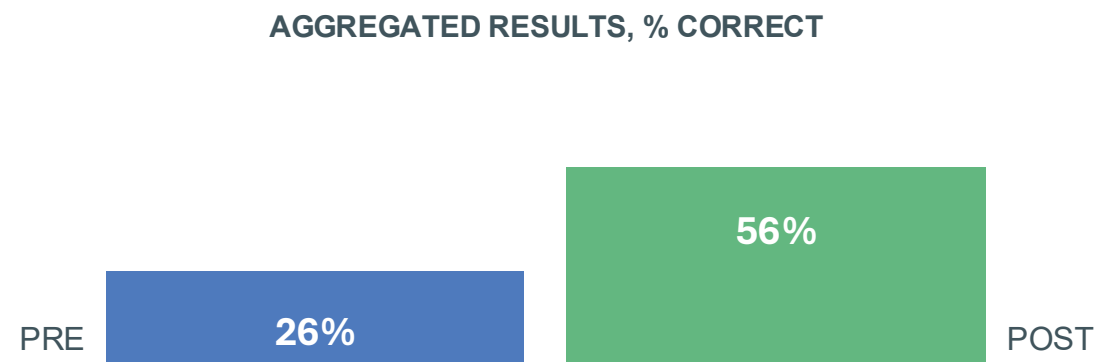


## QUESTION 2 RESULTS

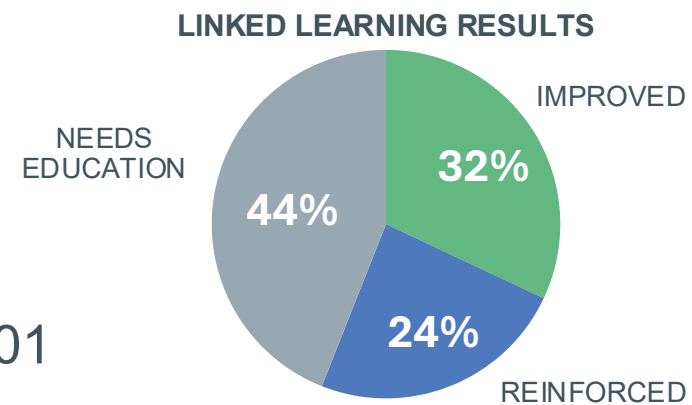
### Significantly improved knowledge on setting appropriate treatment intervals with novel therapies in clinical practice

Ophthalmologists (n = 262)

The FARWIDE study uses the United States IRIS registry and has reported real-world data on over 17,000 eyes with neovascular age-related macular degeneration treated with faricimab, including 8634 eyes switching from another anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) to faricimab. After switching to faricimab, treatment intervals were extended in 55% of eyes after how many injections (**CORRECT ANSWER: 1 to 2 injections**; INCORRECT ANSWERS: 3 injections; 4 or more injections)



$P < .001$

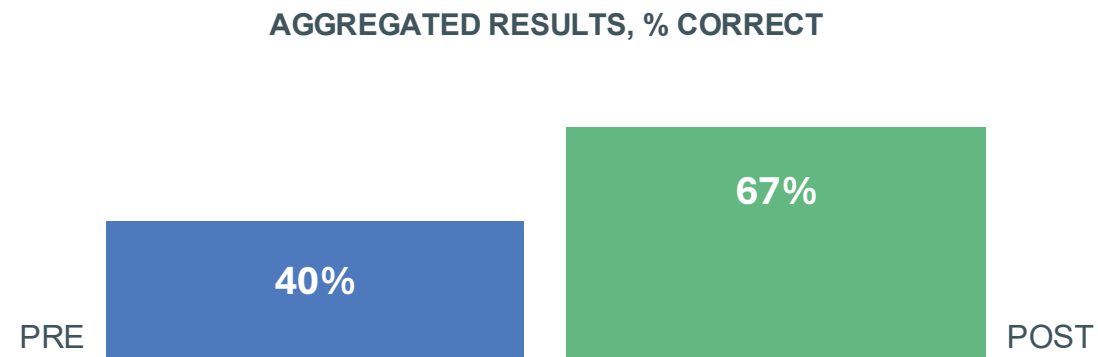


### QUESTION 3 RESULTS

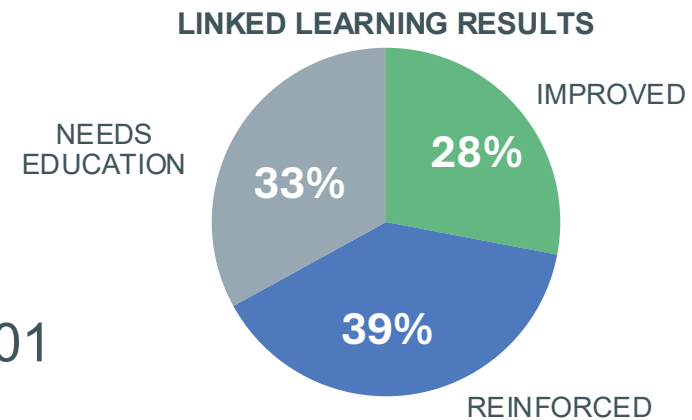
## Significantly increased knowledge regarding safety monitoring for novel therapies

Ophthalmologists (n = 262)

What is a useful imaging tool, in addition to optical coherence tomography (OCT) at every injection visit, for a patient treated with an extended-durability intravitreal anti-VEGF therapy, if there is concern about potential intraocular inflammation (**CORRECT ANSWER: Widefield fluorescein angiography**; INCORRECT ANSWERS: Fundus autofluorescence; Magnetic resonance imaging; White light interferometry)



$P < .001$

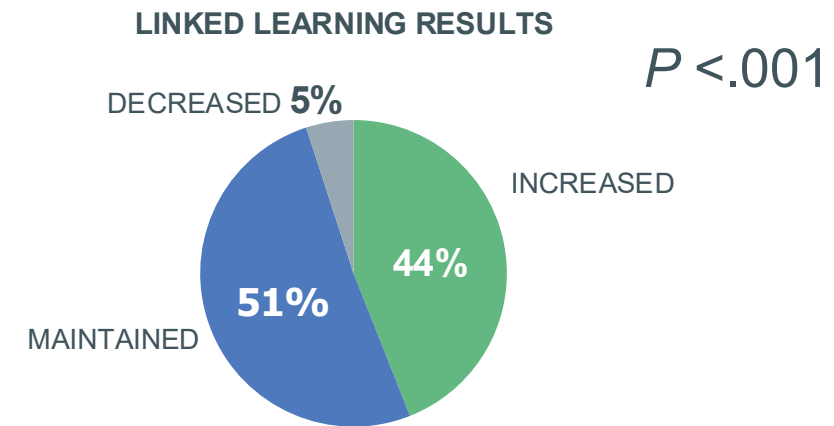
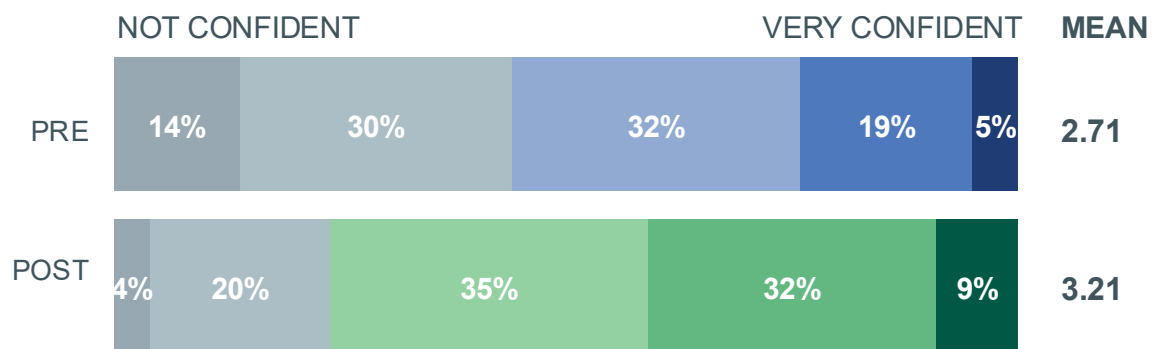


## CONFIDENCE ANALYSIS

# Significantly improved confidence extending treatment intervals using novel therapies

Ophthalmologists (n = 262)

SELF EFFICACY QUESTION: How confident are you right now in your ability to extend treatment intervals for appropriate patients with retinal diseases beyond 3 months/12 weeks? (Select ranking from 1 [Not confident] to 5 [Very confident])

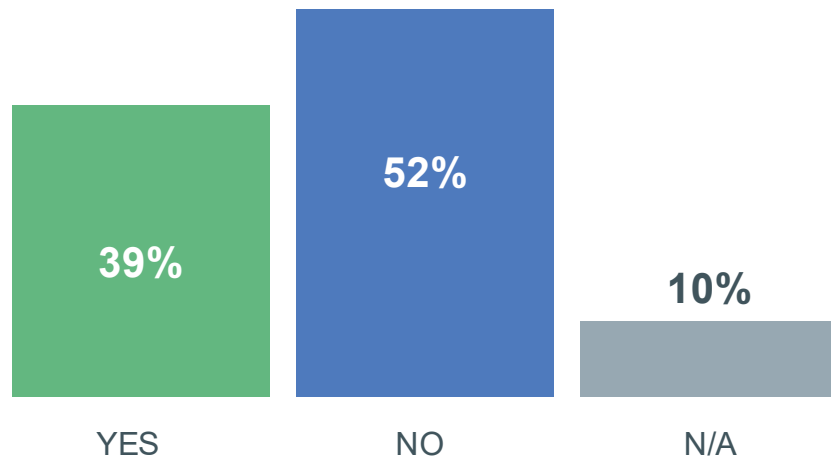




## POLLING QUESTION:

Ophthalmologists (n = 262)

Have you prescribed or administered the long-acting anti-VEGF/Anti-Ang2 intravitreal therapeutic faricimab, to patients with neovascular AMD or DME?



## CONCLUSIONS

Online medical education is a fast and effective method to

- enhance recall on real world evidence data for longer-acting agents in patients with nAMD and DME
- increase knowledge on imaging modalities for safety monitoring and
- improve confidence in using newer agents with treatment intervals beyond 12 weeks, where appropriate.

This accredited 30-minute online roundtable discussion between retina specialists with synchronized slides was useful to help adoption of therapies to reduce treatment burden through greater knowledge and confidence of ophthalmologists.

Further education is warranted, in particular once real world data become available to show whether extended treatment intervals can be maintained long-term and if they mirror efficacy seen in clinical trials.



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