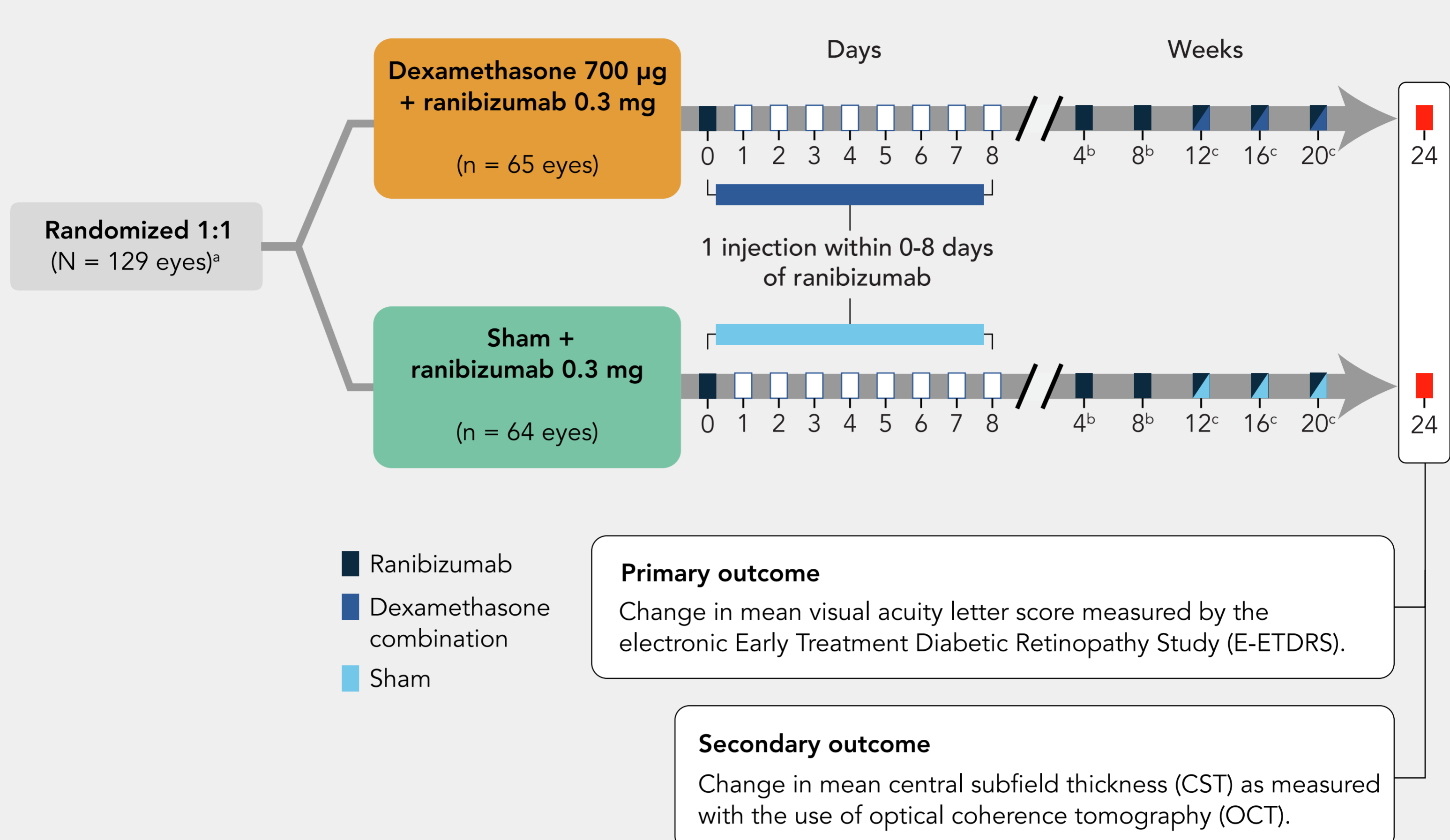


Effect of Adding Dexamethasone to Continued Ranibizumab Treatment in Patients With Persistent Diabetic Macular Edema: A DRCR Network Phase 2 Randomized Clinical Trial

Maturi RK, Glassman AR, Liu D, et al. *JAMA Ophthalmol.* 2018;136:29-38.
doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2017.4914

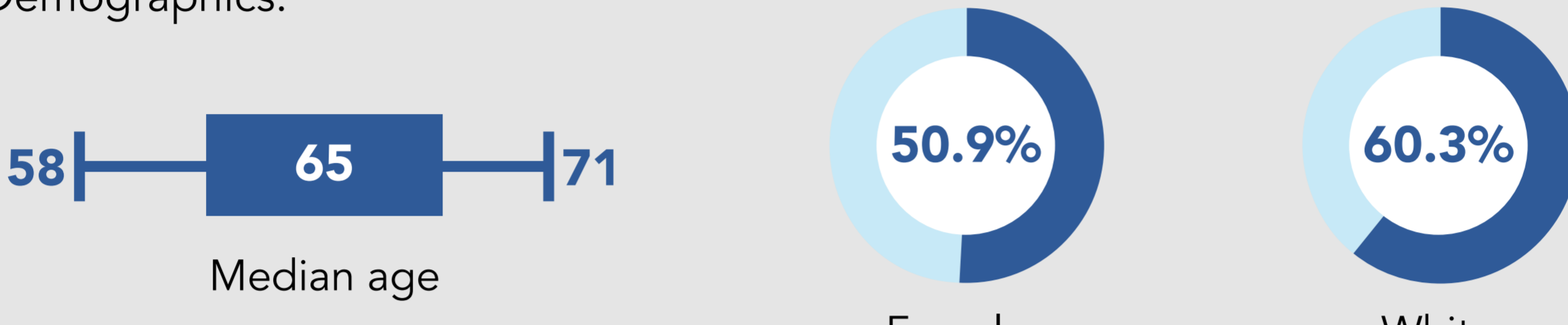
Persistent diabetic macular edema (DME) following anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) therapy poses a clinical challenge. Subsequently adding intravitreal corticosteroids to the treatment regimen might result in better outcomes than continued anti-VEGF therapy alone. This study aimed to compare the effectiveness of continued intravitreal ranibizumab alone versus ranibizumab combined with intravitreal dexamethasone implant in eyes with persistent DME.

This phase 2 multicenter randomized clinical trial was conducted at 40 US sites.

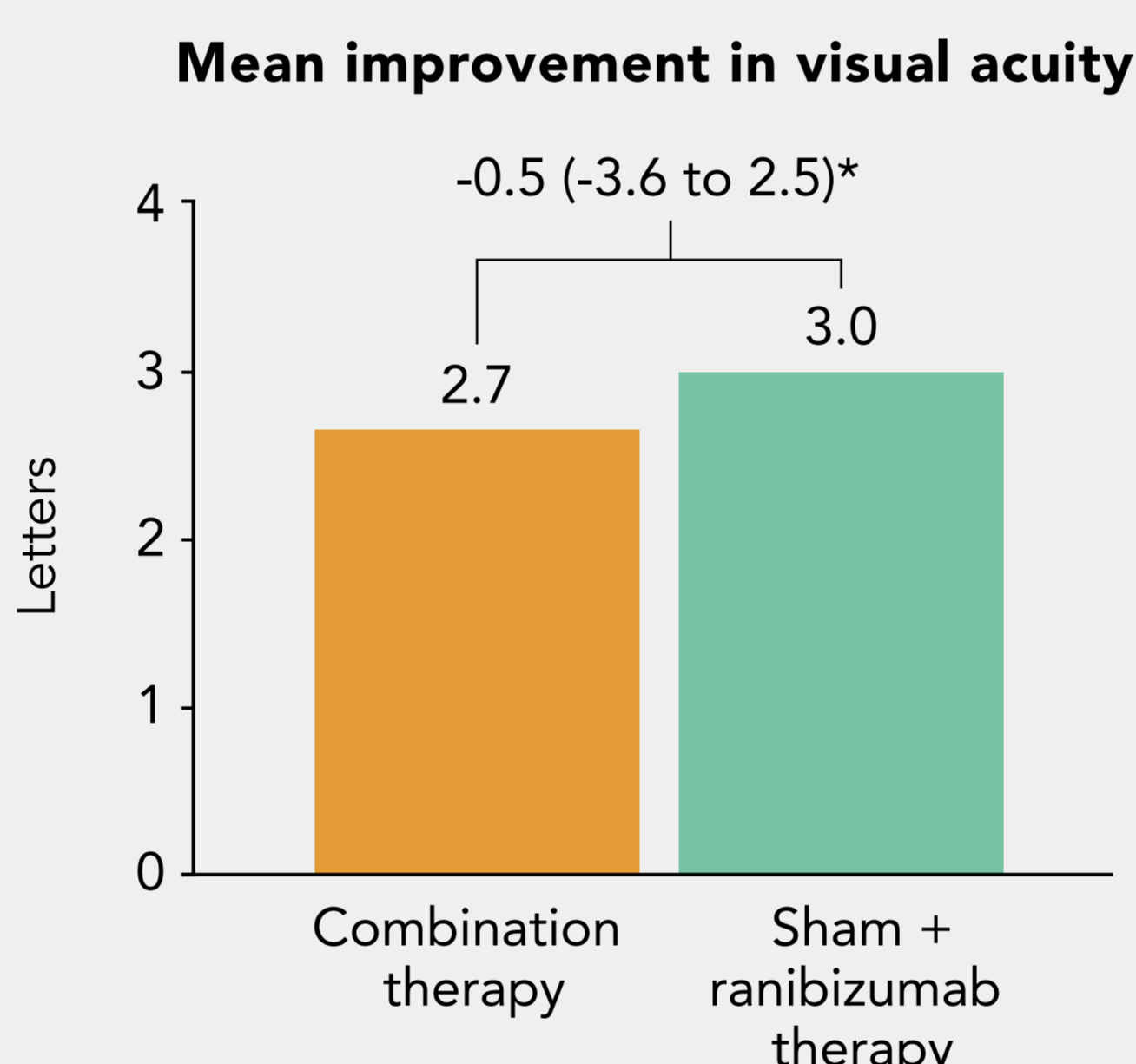
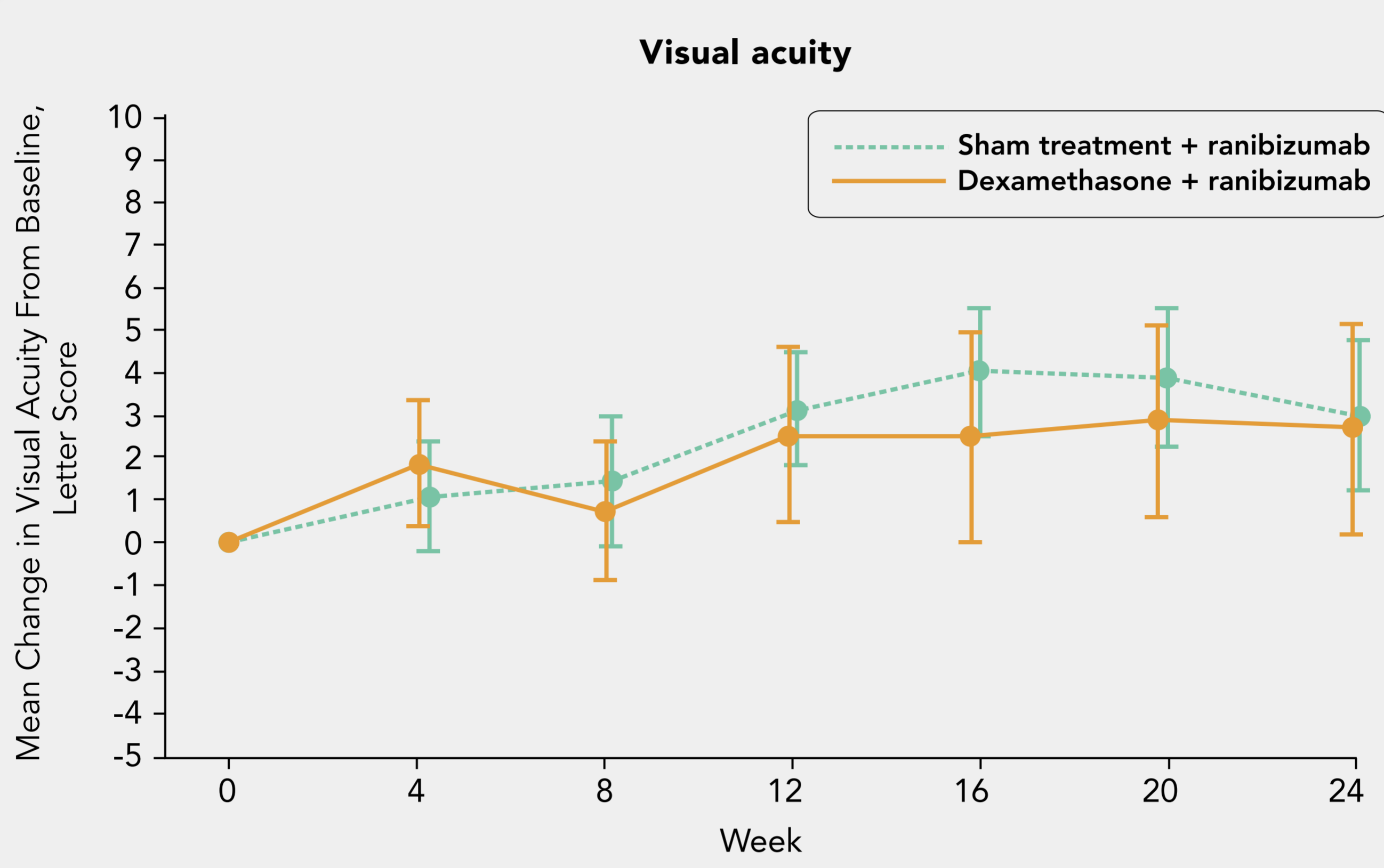


^a 13 of the 116 patients that met criteria had 2 eyes randomized
^b Ranibizumab injection only if the visual acuity is less than 84 or OCT findings are at or above the protocol-defined cutoff
^c Retreatment with original treatment, if the visual acuity is less than 84 or OCT findings are at or above the protocol-defined cutoff (a maximum of 2 injections of either dexamethasone or sham treatment for each eye)

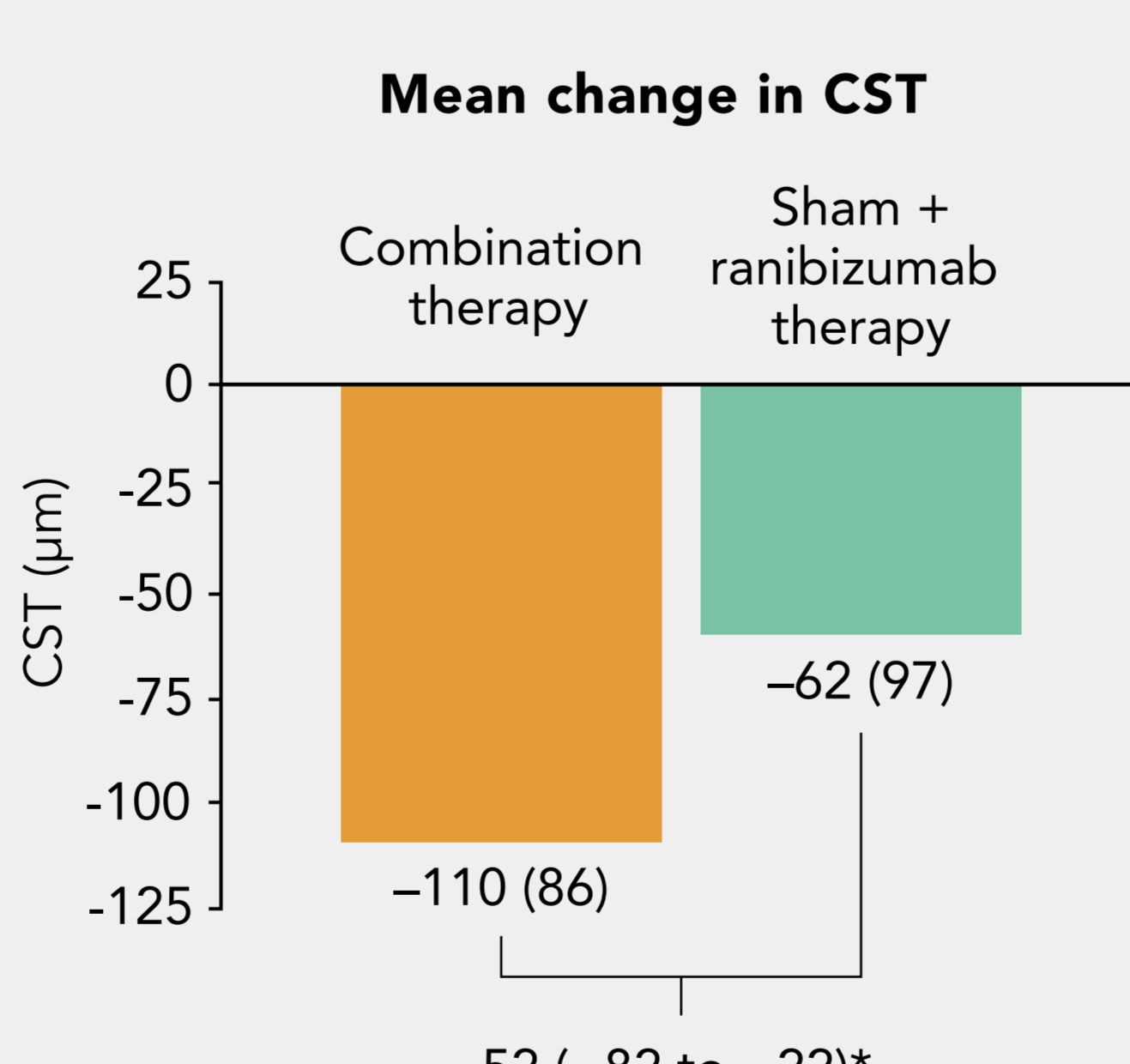
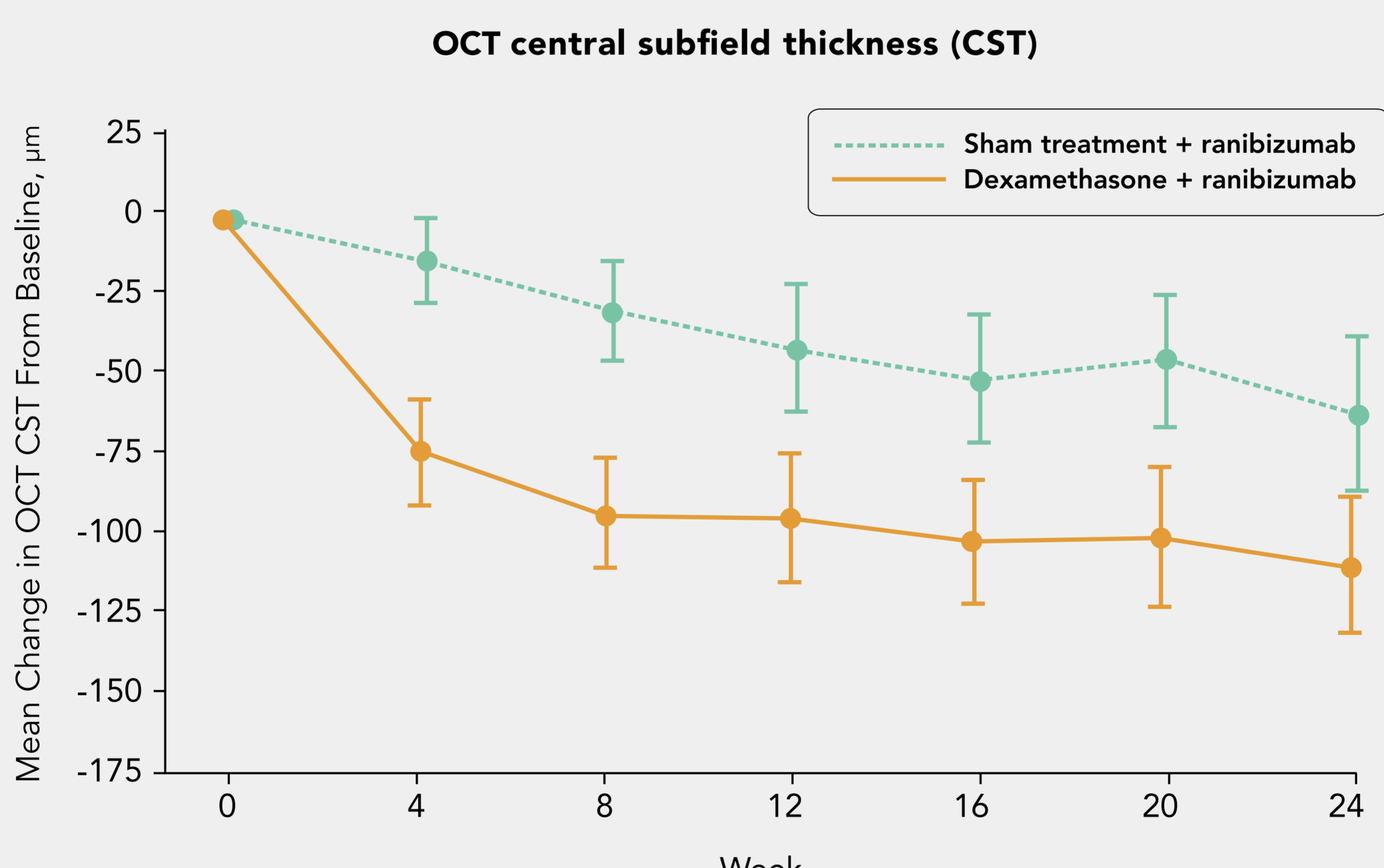
Demographics:



There was no significant difference in visual acuity improvement at 24 weeks between combination therapy and ranibizumab alone.

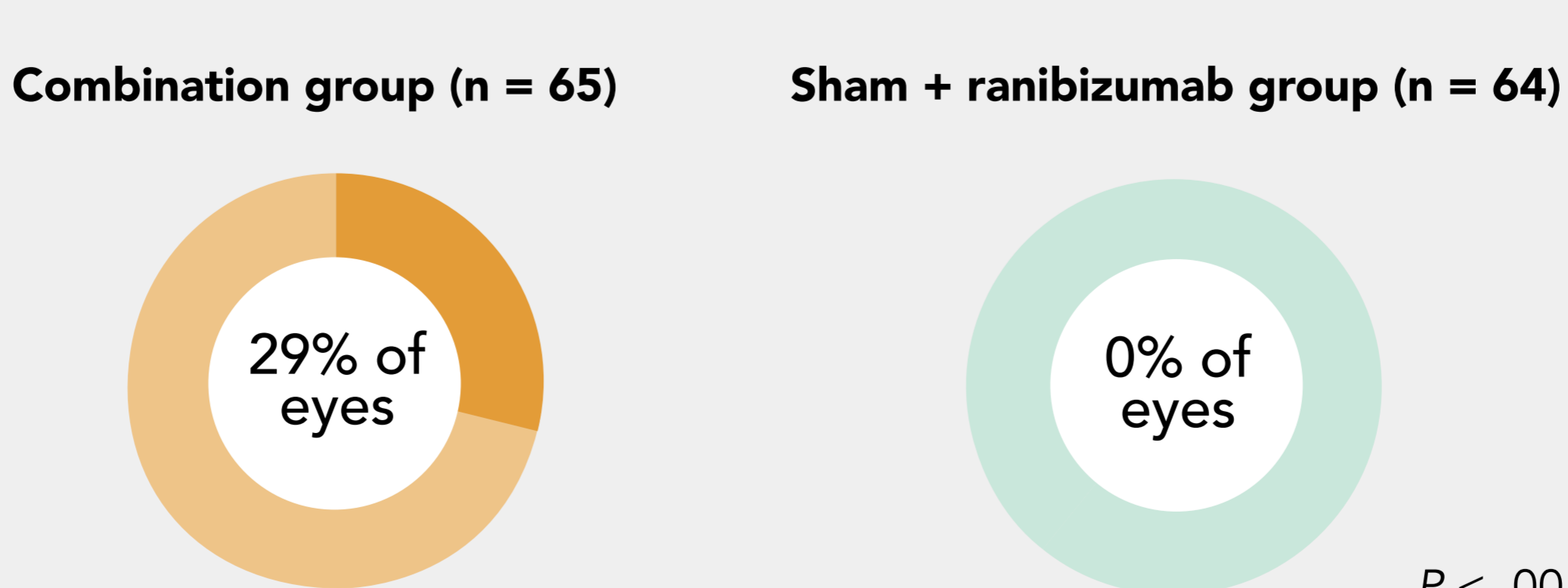


Combination therapy may lead to a reduction in retinal thickness, but does not result in greater improvement in visual acuity compared to ranibizumab therapy alone.



Adverse Events

Percentage of patients that experienced increased intraocular pressure or initiated treatment with antihypertensive eyedrops.



Conclusions

Although its use is more likely to reduce retinal thickness and increase intraocular pressure, the addition of intravitreal dexamethasone to continued ranibizumab therapy does not improve visual acuity at 24 weeks more than continued ranibizumab therapy alone among eyes with persistent DME following anti-VEGF therapy.