# Illumin-8: Real-World Use of Aflibercept 8 mg Among Eyes With Diabetic Macular Edema

Klufas MA, Gilmartin M. Presented at: Hawaiian Eye and Retina; January 17–23, 2026; Waikoloa Village, Hawaii.

In the PHOTON trial, aflibercept 8 mg achieved similar BCVA outcomes to aflibercept 2 mg with fewer injections in patients with DME through 96 weeks.[1,2] Real-world evidence describing the use of aflibercept 8 mg in treatment-naïve and previously treated patients with DME could be informative for clinical practice.

This Illumin-8 study aimed to describe real-world outcomes in patients with DME in the American Academy of Ophthalmology IRIS® Registry (Intelligent Research in Sight) who received initial aflibercept 8 mg treatment or were previously treated with aflibercept 2 mg before switching to aflibercept 8 mg.*

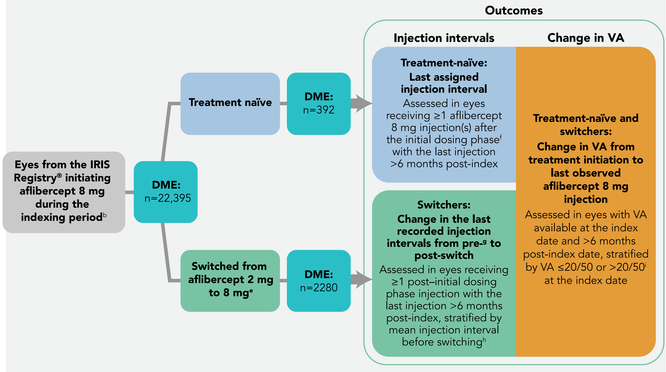
*Safety parameters were not assessed in this analysis.

1. Brown DM, et al. *Lancet*. 2024;403:1153–1163.
2. Do DV, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2025; [ePub ahead of print Nov 10]. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha.2025.10.028.

## Treatment-naïve patients initiating aflibercept 8 mg and patients who switched to aflibercept 8 mg from aflibercept 2 mg were evaluated for real-world outcomes

### Eligibility Criteria

- Aged ≥18 years with DME on the index date[a]
- Initiated aflibercept 8 mg during the indexing period,[b] and received no other anti-VEGF or other treatments[c] on the index date
- No diagnosis of nAMD or RVO during the baseline period[d] or on the index date
- For patients with both eyes treated on the index date and eligible for inclusion, one eye was randomly selected

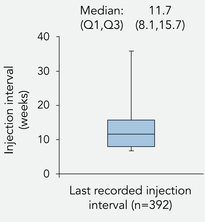



[a]Index date: date of the first aflibercept 8 mg injection. [b]Indexing period: August 18, 2023, to June 30, 2024. [c]Other treatments included intravitreal steroids and laser therapy. [d]Baseline period: 12 months prior to the index date. *Eyes switched within 16 weeks prior to the index date with a last pre-switch injection interval ≥6 weeks. [f]First 3 injections or 90 days, whichever occurred first. [g]Pre-switch phase was 12 months prior to the index date. [h]Eyes were stratified by mean injection interval before switching (6 to ≤8, >8 to ≤10, >10 to ≤12, >12 to ≤16, and >16 weeks). [i]Equivalent to ≤65 or >65 ETDRS letters.

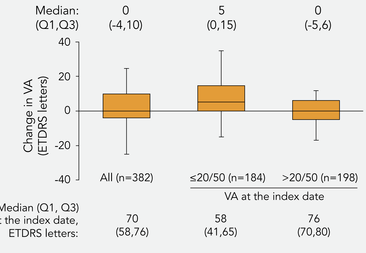
DR = diabetic retinopathy; ETDRS = Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; nAMD = neovascular age-related macular degeneration; RVO = retinal vein occlusion; VA = visual acuity; VEGF = vascular endothelial growth factor.

## For treatment-naïve patients, the median injection interval was ~12 weeks with a median VA change of +5 letters in patients with VA 20/50 or worse at baseline

### Last injection interval




### Change in VA from the index date to the last injection



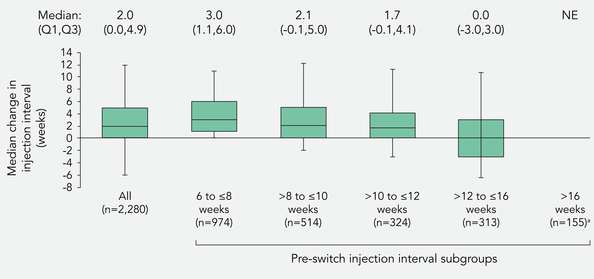

Median (Q1, Q3) VA at the index date, ETDRS letters: 70 (58,76) | 58 (41,65) | 76 (70,80)

**Median injection intervals of ~12 weeks** were achieved >6 months after initiating aflibercept 8 mg in treatment-naïve patients

Box and whisker plots indicate medians (middle line), Q1 and Q3 (upper and lower bounds of the boxes), and 5% and 95% percentiles (whiskers). Mean (SD) injection interval: 14.3 (10.3) weeks. Mean (SD) change in VA: 2.7 (15.1) letters for all eyes, 6.4 (17.5) letters for eyes with VA ≤20/50 at the index date, and −0.8 (11.4) letters for those with VA >20/50 at the index date.

## For patients who switched from aflibercept 2 mg to 8 mg, median extension in the last pre-switch interval was ~2 weeks, while median VA was maintained

### Change in injection interval by pre-switch injection interval subgroups




**Injection interval extensions of ~2 weeks** were achieved after switching to aflibercept 8 mg while VA was maintained in patients who switched from aflibercept 2 mg to 8 mg

Box and whisker plots indicate medians (middle line), Q1 and Q3 (upper and lower bounds of the boxes), and 5% and 95% percentiles (whiskers). Mean (SD) change in injection interval: 2.5 (7.1) weeks (for all eyes). All interval extensions were achieved with no change in VA. [a]This subgroup was NE.

NE = not evaluated.

## Conclusion

- **In this early real-world analysis of the IRIS Registry®, after 6 months, treatment-naïve patients with DME achieved injection intervals of ~12 weeks, with meaningful VA gains among eyes with VA ≤20/50 at the index date (median follow-up 56 weeks)**
- **Treatment with aflibercept 8 mg extended injection intervals for patients with DME who switched from aflibercept 2 mg by ~2 weeks with vision maintained (median follow-up of 57 weeks)**
- **Additional analyses with longer follow-up periods are ongoing to assess the long-term effectiveness and durability of aflibercept 8 mg in treatment-naïve and previously treated patients with DME in the real-world setting**