Verana Health

CASE STUDY | abbvie | ARVO 2026

Uncontrolled nAMD: Real-World Disease Burden in the US and UK

AbbVie leveraged the AAO IRIS Registry to conduct the largest real-world study of uncontrolled neovascular AMD, quantifying treatment failure rates in 163,795 US eyes over 5 years. Presented at **ARVO 2026**

Background

Neovascular AMD (nAMD) is a leading cause of vision loss in adults over 50, treated primarily with anti-VEGF injections. Despite their efficacy, the high frequency of treatment required creates a significant burden for patients and clinicians, often resulting in undertreatment. The real-world rate at which patients experience uncontrolled disease after initiating therapy had not been quantified at scale across multiple health systems or countries.

Methods

Dual-registry, longitudinal cohort design spanning the US (AAO IRIS Registry) and UK (mediSIGHT EMR, 10 centers). Patients aged 50+ who initiated anti-VEGF therapy within 60 days of incident nAMD diagnosis with 5 or more years of follow-up were included.

Uncontrolled nAMD assessed using 4 definitions based on changes in visual acuity (VA) or central retinal thickness (CRT) from Month 4 post-index (post loading doses), evaluated annually through Year 5.

Study period: January 2016 through June 2025 (US) and December 2024 (UK). Funded by AbbVie.

Results

Scale: 163,795 US eyes and 15,690 UK eyes eligible, representing the largest real-world nAMD uncontrolled disease study to date.

US Year 5 rates: 34.7% to 50.7% of eyes had uncontrolled nAMD depending on definition stringency. Rates rose steadily each year after therapy initiation.

UK Year 5 rates: 34.4% to 54.0% of eyes had uncontrolled nAMD. Results were consistent across both healthcare systems.

Implication: Approximately one-third to one-half of eyes uncontrolled by Year 5, indicating a substantial unmet need for more durable, adherence-supportive anti-VEGF therapies.

Conclusion

The IRIS Registry enabled AbbVie to conduct the largest cross-national real-world study of uncontrolled nAMD, demonstrating that undertreatment affects approximately one-third to one-half of patients by Year 5 and establishing a compelling evidence base for next-generation anti-VEGF therapies.

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