

EACH ISSUE A RECIPE



Every issue of *Retina Today* can be viewed as a recipe of sorts for better patient outcomes, each article an ingredient with the potential for enhancement. The topics may range from surgical, to medical, to clinical, even

to entertaining, but elements of each can be taken purely as they are offered or adapted to one's own interests and needs.

Welcome to the Therapeutics and Pharmacology issue. Not all patients with retina conditions need surgical treatment. In many cases, we turn instead to laser therapy, intraocular or systemic drug delivery, clinical trials involving stem cell treatment, gene therapy, growth factors, and other novel options. Until affordable, effective treatments have been developed to treat all patients with retina conditions, we must support efforts to develop and research new and innovative options. Let's take a look at the "ingredients" contained in the following pages.

In patients with a central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), the key is to keep their vision stable. This is typically accomplished with intravitreal anti-VEGF injections, although steroids and panretinal photocoagulation may also be used. In "Intravitreal Monotherapy for CRVO, or Intravitreal Therapy Plus Laser?" Manrique Cordoba, MD, and Lihteh Wu, MD, serve up a comparison of intravitreal monotherapy versus intravitreal therapy in combination with laser therapy. Turn to page 50 to see which approach they determined to be the best.

For patients with diabetes, diabetic macular edema (DME)

is one of the most common causes of vision loss. In this issue, two articles tackle the topic of therapeutic treatment of DME. Christopher M. Aderman, MD, and Sunir J. Garg, MD, examine the benefits and limitations of common approaches to managing patients with DME in "Intravitreal Anti-VEGF Injection Treatment Algorithms for DME," on page 53, and Peter K. Kaiser, MD, offers background and recent clinical findings related to a first-in-class integrin inhibitor ("Anti-Integrin Therapy in Treatment of DME," page 57).

Dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a hot area of focus lately for drug development. On page 61, Pravin U. Dugel, MD, provides a status update on two oral drugs for the treatment of nonneovascular AMD and on a novel, intravitreally injected antigen-binding fragment of a humanized monoclonal antibody directed against complement factor D ("Dry AMD Pipeline: Looking to Intravitreal Therapy").

We hope you find more than a few tasty morsels to enjoy inside these pages. Have a hankering for rare conditions? On page 32 Andrea Grosso, MD; Jorge I. Calzada, MD; John Randolph, MD; and Eric J. Sigler, MD, take a closer look at papillophlebitis. Technology nut? Check out "Heads-up 3-D Visualization in Complex Vitreoretinal Surgery" on page 44. Or, get an international perspective on treating myopic traction maculopathy on page 28.

It all boils down to being aware of all available and anticipated treatment options to meet our patients' needs. Achieving better patient outcomes leads to happier patients, which translates to happy physicians and the possibility of sharing our recipes with others. We hope the ingredients in this issue add up to a filling meal for all of our readers. ■

Allen C. Ho, MD,
Chief Medical Editor

Robert L. Avery, MD,
Associate Medical Editor