

Expanding Treatment Options for Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a condition that is prevalent within the retina specialist's practice. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released data estimating that 170 million people worldwide have diabetes, and that half of the current cases are undiagnosed.¹ The implications of the rising numbers of patients who are being diagnosed with diabetes are significant to our profession, as many of these people will experience resultant visual loss. Treating our patients with diabetes is also often complicated by concurrent medical issues, such as hypertension, and so we must be cautious in choosing our therapeutic regimens. Because of the complicated nature of diabetes, it is likely that we will need several options

available with which to individualize our treatment regimens.



The results of the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network (DRCR.net) study comparing focal/grid laser photocoagulation treatment with intravitreal triamcinolone therapy in 2008² supported grid laser photocoagulation as the gold standard in therapy for DR; however, research geared to finding effective pharmacologic options continues.

In this issue of *Retina Today*, we explore the work that is being performed toward finding more effective treatments for DR. From pharmacologic to surgical, our authors discuss the current experience, and in some articles we look ahead to treatments that are in earlier stages of development. ■

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1. Report of WHO consultation in Geneva, Switzerland, 9-11 November 2005.

2. Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network. A randomized trial comparing intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide and focal/grid photocoagulation for diabetic macular edema. *Ophthalmology*. 2008;115:1447-1459.