UPDATES IN WET AMD, DRY AMD, AND GA AT THE DAWN OF 2023

Biosimilars are on the horizon.

BY PETER K. KAISER, MD, AND MARIELLE MAHAN, MD

The most recent edition of our poster tracking drug candidates and approved treatments for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD), dry AMD, and geographic atrophy (GA) contains a number of changes from the previous iteration—and yet, much of the poster may resemble last year's version at first glance. A keen eye is needed to spot the differences. Let us point you in the right direction.

On the side of the poster highlighting developments in wet AMD, you'll notice an expanded list of anti-VEGF and anti-PlGF agents, including multiple biosimilars. As we move toward the age of biosimilar therapy, we thought it was best to highlight which biosimilars reference which molecules and which biosimilars have achieved approval status. For those who need a refresher course on biosimilars, refer to the box labeled "The Cutting Edge," where a biosimilar fact sheet has been assembled for your reference.

The portion of the poster outlining developments in dry AMD and GA has undergone significant expansion with the addition of several drugs that target the complement pathway in an effort to suppress inflammation. More than a dozen treatments in the dry AMD and GA space, many of them related to the complement pathway, have been added or subtracted from last year's poster. We've organized them (as best we could) by their specific complement pathway target, and provided a numbered reference so that readers can see precisely where a drug candidate fits into the complement cascade. For example, a number 1 is encased in a bubble to the left of ANX007 (Annexon), the first drug on our list. To the right, an identical number 1 bubble can be seen at the top of the classical pathway, as this is where the C1q inhibitor ANX007 impedes the complement pathway. We encourage you to bounce back and forth between the list of drugs and the complement pathway illustration, using the circled numerals as your guide.

One significant difference between the wet AMD and the dry AMD/GA summaries: the former has a series of "FDA-Approved" badges, while the latter remains filled with unapproved therapies. At the time of publication, no therapy for dry AMD or GA is approved by the US FDA. We expect that next year's poster might depict some "FDA-Approved" badges on the dry AMD and GA side of the poster—assuming, of course, that the FDA agrees that the findings of various phase 3 studies are sufficient for approval.

Share this year's interactive digital poster with your colleagues and mentees. A QR code at the bottom of the wet AMD side will take you there on a mobile device. If you're exploring on a desktop, you can visit bit.ly/retinapipelineposter2023. ■

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DID WE MISS A DRUG CANDIDATE?

If you wish to include a candidate for wet AMD, dry AMD, or GA therapy in next year's poster, email Peter K. Kaiser, MD, at pkkaiser@gmail.com and Cara Deming, Executive Director of Special Projects, at Bryn Mawr Communications, at cdeming@bmctoday.com.

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