

# Diabetic Retinopathy: The latest in treatment options and what the real world evidence is telling us

Francisco J. Rodríguez, MD  
Fundacion Oftalmologica Nacional  
Escuela de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud  
Universidad del Rosario  
Bogotá, DC

# Financial Disclosure

- Consultant
  - Novartis / Alcon, Allergan, Bayer
- Lecture
  - Novartis / Alcon, Allergan, Bayer
- Research Support
  - Novartis

# Diabetic Retinopathy / DME

- DR is a major cause of blindness in the working-age group
- DME is the commonest cause of moderate visual loss.
- Wild et al estimated the worldwide prevalence of diabetes mellitus to be 2.8%
- Etiology and pathogenesis of macular edema is intricate and multifactorial
  - Hyperglycemic state induces a microangiopathy.
  - Pathologic changes in vascular endothelium through several inflammatory and vasogenic mediators
  - Breakdown of the blood retinal barrier
- The advent of medications targeting the VEGF pathway has led to great clinical improvements
- Reports have shown that patients have inadequate response, or are nonresponders or have no access to anti-VEGF therapy, demonstrating the need for additional therapies to more comprehensively treat this disease

# Imaging DR & DME

- Important for diagnosis and follow-up
- Multimodal imaging
  - Fluorescein angiography
    - Wide-field FA
- Fundus autofluorescence
- OCT-SD
- OCT angiography

# Clinical Trials In DR & DME

Laser Photocoagulation Trials	Intravitreal Pharmacotherapy Trials (DME)	Intravitreal Pharmacotherapy Trials (DR)	Vitreoretinal Surgery Trials	Medical Therapy Trials
DRS	DRCR (Protocol I)	CLARITY	DRVS	DCCT / EDIC
ETDRS	DRCR (Protocol T)	DRCR (Protocol S)	ETDRS Report 17	UKPDS
DRCR (Protocol A)	READ	DR-Pro-DEX Study	DRCR (Protocol D)	FIELD
DRCR (Protocol B)	RISE/RIDE		DRCR (Protocol N)	ACCORD
DRCR (Protocol F)	BOLT		CHAMPLAIN	DRCR (Protocol M)
DRCR (Protocol K)	FAME			
DRCR (Protocol S)	MEAD			
DRCR (Protocol V)	BEVERDEX			
	PLACID			
	VIVID / VISTA			

# Clinical Trials with Anti-VEGF for DME

RISE & RIDE	RESOLVE	Protocol I	RESTORE	VIVID & VISTA	Protocol T
Ranibizumab 0.3 mg	Ranibizumab 0.3mg-0.6 mg	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg +PL	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg	Aflibercept 2 mg 2q4	Ranibizumab 0.3 mg
Ranibizumab 0.5 mg	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg-1mg	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg + DL	Ranibizumab 0.5 mg + Laser	Aflibercept 2 mg 2q8	Aflibercept 2 mg
Placebo (sham)	Sham	Laser	Laser	Laser	Bevacizumab 1.25 mg
		Triamcinolone 4 mg + PL			
Monthly	3 LD+ PRN L Monthly	4 LD + PRN every 4 w	3 LD + PRN monthly	5 LD+ 2q4 vs 2q8	1 LD + PRN Every 4 w

# Results

## RISE & RIDE<sup>4</sup>

BCVA gain of more than 15 letters after 36 months:  
41.6 / 40.2% vs 22 / 19.2%  
Mean BCVA gain of 11 letters in RBZ 0.5 mg vs sham 4.3  
Reduction in CFT: 269.1 / 261 μm vs 200.1 / 213 μm

Delayed treatment in patients receiving sham did not lead to same extent of vision gain

## RESOLVE<sup>5</sup>

Ranibizumab 0.3-0.6 mg y 0.5-1mg:  
BCVA (EDTRS) gain at 12 months:  
8.8 letters (p<0.001 versus sham)  
vs 11.8 vs -1.4 letters

IOP increase Ranibizumab 0.5 mg vs sham: 29% versus 2%

4. Brown DM et al. Ophthalmology. 2013;120:2013–22.

5. Massin P, et al. Diabetes Care. 2010;33:2399–405

# Results

## Protocol I<sup>6</sup>

## RESTORE<sup>7,8</sup>

The mean change in VA from baseline through the 5-year visit: 7.2 letters versus 9.8 letters (p=0.09)  
Improvement of ≥10 letters in 46% versus 58%,  
Improvement of >15 letters in 27% versus 38%

BCVA gain at 12 months: 6.1 letters (p<0.001 vs laser) vs 5.9 (p<0.001 vs laser) vs 0.8 letters  
CRT reduction 128 versus 119 versus 61 μm

Pseudophakia: Triamcinolone + PL more effective than laser alone. Risk of increased IOP

Mean number of injections: 6.5 from months 12–36 (Extension study)

6. DRCR Network, Elman MJ, et al. Ophthalmology. 2010;117:1064–1077.e35

7. Mitchell P, et al. Ophthalmology. 2011;118:615–25.

8. Schmidt-Erfurth U, et al. Ophthalmology. 2014;121:1045–53.



# Results

## VIVID & VISTA<sup>9</sup>

Mean change in BCVA (letters) at month 12: 10.5/12.5 vs 10.7/10.7 vs 1.2/0.2

Mean BCVA gain at 100 weeks: 11.4, 9.4 and 0.7 letters ( $p < 0.0001$ )

Proportion of eyes with >15 letter gain at week 100: 38.2/38.3, 31.1/33.1 and 12.1/13.0% ( $p \leq 0.0001$ )

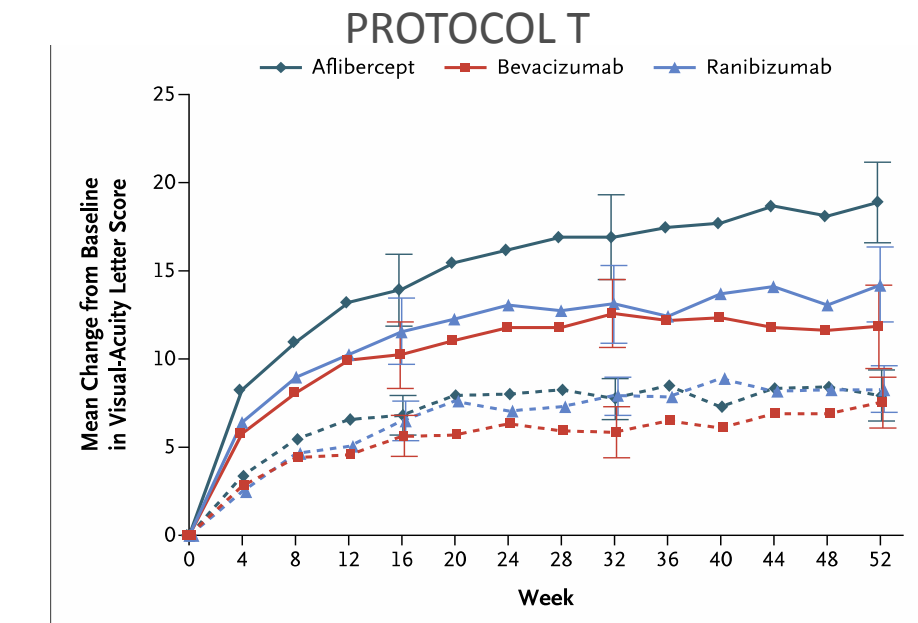
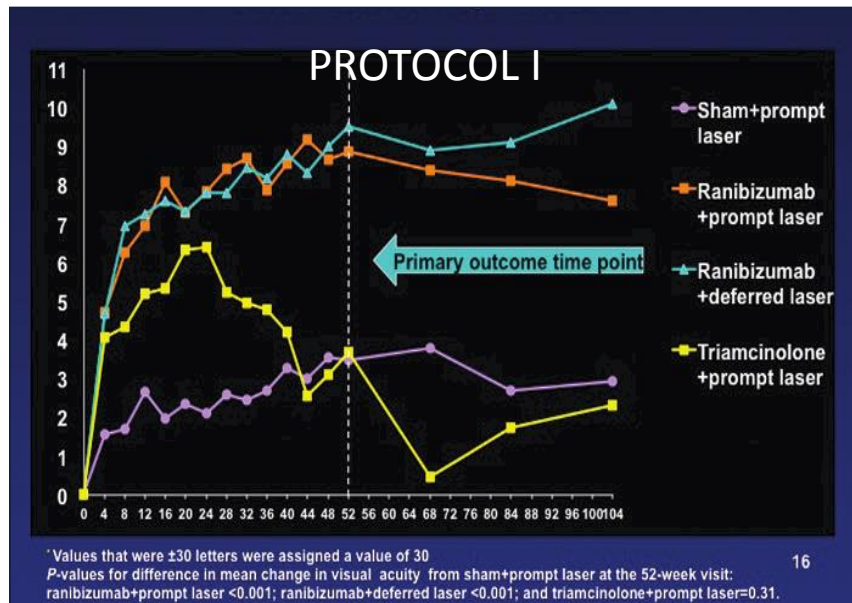
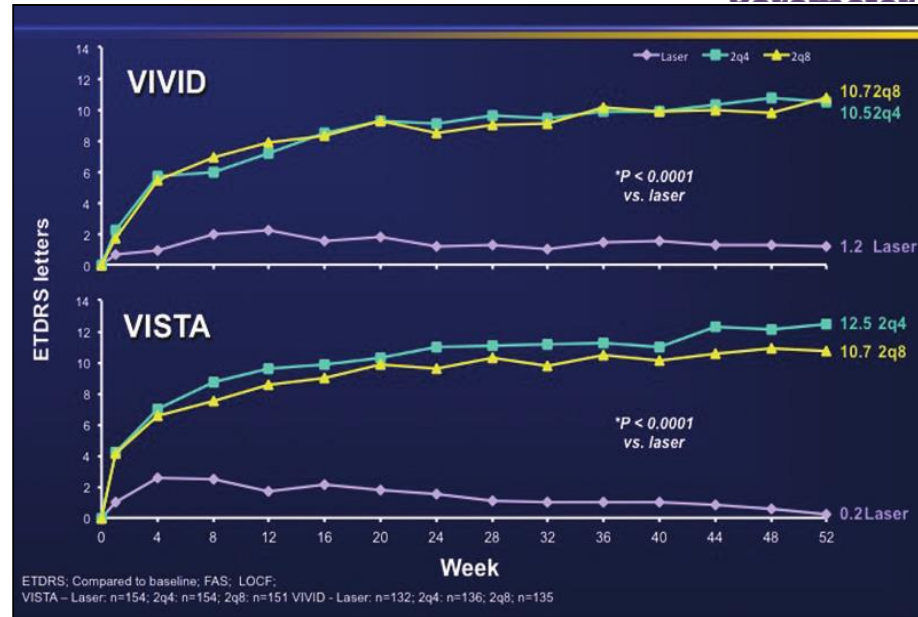
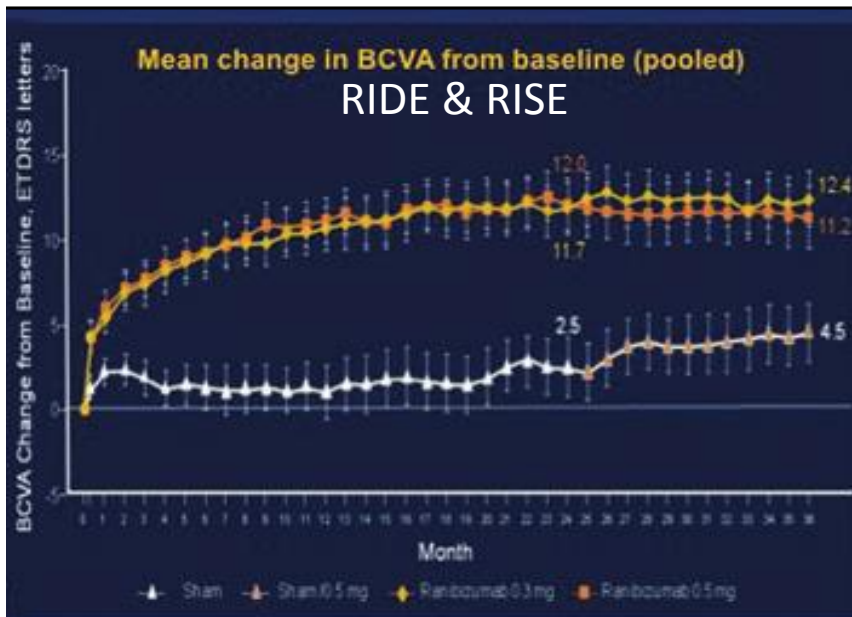
## Protocolo T<sup>10</sup>

Mean VA gain at 2 years:  
Ran 12.3, Bev 10.0, AFL 12.8  
VA gains in patients with VA 20/32 to 20/40: RBZ 8.6, BEV 6.8, AFL 7.8

VA worst than 20/40, AFL shows greater VA gain.  
Treated with AFL required less number of laser treatments.

9. Korobelnik JF, et al. Ophthalmology. 2014;121:2247–54.

10. DRCR Network, Wells JA, et al. N Engl J Med. 2015; 372:1193–203.



# Vision improvement

	RIDE & RISE	RESOLVE	Protocol I	RESTORE	VISTA & VIVID	Protocol T
Prportion of eyes with > 15 letter gain	R 0.3mg RIDE: 36.8% RISE: 51.2%	R 0.5mg 32.4%	R 0.5 mg +PL 30%	R 0.5 mg 22.6%	AFL 2q4 VISTA: 41.6% VIVID: 32.4%	R 0.3 mg >20/40: 16% <20/50: 50%
	R 0.5 mg RIDE: 40.2% RISE: 41.6%		R 0.5 mg + DL 28%	R 0.5 mg + Laser 22.9%	AFL2q8 VISTA: 31.1% VIVID: 33.3%	A 2 mg >20/40: 18% <20/50: 67%
	(sham) RIDE: 19.2% RISE: 22.0%	Laser 5%	Laser 15%	Laser 8.2%	Laser VISTA: 7.8% VIVID: 9.1%	B 1.25 mg >20/40: 15% <20/50: 41%
			T 4 mg + PL 21%			

# Intravitreal Corticosteroids

## TRIAMCINOLONE<sup>6</sup>

## DEXAMETASONE<sup>12</sup>

## FLUCINOLONE<sup>13</sup>

<p>Protocol I /J Subgroup analysis: Similar VA gains as Ranibizumab in pseudophakic</p>	<p>Ozurdex (MEAD study) 0.7-0.35 mg BCVA % patients <math>\geq</math> 15 letters at month 36: DEX 0.7 mg: 22; Sham: 12 (p&lt;0.018) Mean average reduction over 36 months versus baseline: DEX 0.7 mg: -111.6 <math>\mu</math>m; Sham: -41.9 <math>\mu</math>m Similar effect of DEX 0.7 mg in subgroups defined by DME duration.</p>	<p>Fluocinolone (FAME): non-degradable implant. (0.2-0.5ug/día) &gt; 15 letras, 28.7%</p>
<p>Risk of cataract and increased IOP.</p>	<p>Cataract surgery rate: DEX: 59%, Sham: 7.2% Increased IOP: DEX: 36%, Sham 5%</p>	<p>82%: cataract 20% IOP &gt; 30 mmHg.</p>

6. DRCR Network, Elman MJ, et al. Ophthalmology. 2010;117(6):1064–1077.e35

12. Boyer DS, et al. Ophthalmology. 2014 Oct;121(10):1904–14.

13. Cunha-Vaz J, et al. Ophthalmology. 2014 Oct;121(10):1892–903.

# Diabetic Retinopathy Progression Severity

## RISE & RIDE<sup>11,12</sup>

Ranibizumab 0.3 or 0.5mg showed substantial >2 and >3 step improvement in retinopathy severity.

Fewer patients developed PDR or underwent PRP.  
Therapy modifies natural course of the disease

## VIVID & VISTA<sup>9,10</sup>

Significant more eyes in AFL 2q4 and 2q8 vs laser had 2> step improvement in DRSS score:  
VISTA (37.0% and 37.1% vs. 15.6%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) and VIVID (29.3% and 32.6% vs. 8.2%;  $P \leq 0.0004$ )

9. Korobelnik J-F, et al. Ophthalmology. 2014;121:2247-54

10. Brown DM et al. Ophthalmology 2015;122:2044-52

11. Ip MS, et al. Ophthalmology. 2015;122:367-74.

12. Nguyen DQ et al. Ophthalmology 2012;119:789-801.

# Clinical Trials with Anti-VEGF for DR

Study Population / F/U (m)	Inclusion Criteria	Treatment Arms	Mean Vision Change (letters)	Mean CMT Change (um)	Regression on Neovascularization At Last Follow Up
Protocol S <sup>13</sup> 394 / 24	VA $\geq$ 20/320	Ranibizumab (0.5 mg q4 PRN)	2.8 (95% CI, 0.4 to 5.2)	-47 (95% CI -61 to -33)	35%
		PRP	0.2 (95% CI, -1.9 to 2.3)	-3 (95% CI -15 to 9)	30%
Clarity <sup>14</sup> 232 / 12	VA $\geq$ 20/80	Aflibercept (2 mg q4, PRN after 3 loading q4 doses)	1.3 (0.6 SE)	-8.9 (2.3 SE)	64%
		PRP	-2.9 (0.7 SE)	24.0 (5.5 SE)	34%

13. Writing Committee for the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network, Gross JG, Glassman AR, et al. JAMA 2015;314:2137-2146.

14. Sivaprasad S et al. Lancet, 2017.

# Real World Evidence for DME Ranibizumab

## Menchini<sup>14</sup> (PRIDE Study)

Ranibizumab 0.5 mg, laser as needed in 515 patients (unilateral and bilateral treatment); 10% naïve patients.

Mean VA gain in decimal scores ( $\pm$ SD) at month 5:

Unilateral:  $1.5 \pm 2.38$

Bilateral:  $1.22 \pm 1.67$

Eye disorders: 3.18%/4.18% respectively  
Cardiac disorders: 1.27%/1.23%  
Vascular disorders: 0.64%/0.66%

## Patrao<sup>15</sup>

### RWO of Ranibizumab for DME in UK

Ranibizumab 3 monthly injection and PRN in 164 patients/200 eyes, F/U at least 6 months.

At 12 months:

Mean VA change:  $+6.6 (\pm 13.35)$  letters ( $P=.0003$ ).

40.3% of patients gained > 10 letters

25.1% gained > 15 letters

8.9% lost >10 letters / 6.3% los >15 letters.

Mean change CST  $-133.9 (\pm 160.12)$ um

Mean change MV  $-1.5 (\pm 1$

Average of  $7.2 (\pm 2.3)$  injections

Outcomes comparable with clinical trials

# Real World Evidence for DME

## Ciulla<sup>16</sup>

## Willis<sup>17</sup> IRIS

EMR – Vestrum Health Retina Database  
-5872 patients  
-3 cohorts on F/U: 6, 12, 24 m  
-At least 3 m injections anti-VEGF  
-No exclusive criteria

**-6 m:** 2503 patients, age 62, mean # 5.2 injections. 6.1 letter improvement (VA was 6.9 letters with AFL, 4.9 with RBZ, 6.1 with BEV)  
**-12 m:** 2315 patients, age 62, mean # 8.5 injections. 6.3 letter improvement (VA was 7.4 letters with AFL, 6.1 with RBZ, 6.0 with BEV)  
**-24 m:** 1041 patients, age 61, mean # 14.8 injections. (VA was 6.2 letters with RBZ, 6.5 with BEV).

Under treatment may supersede the VEGF agent used. VA of 20/40 or better did not show improvements in vision.

13,410 patients (July 1, 2013 – March 31 2016)  
Newly diagnosed treatment-naive DME  
Mean age 66 years old  
51% bilateral, 2/3 from public insurance  
58% received care from retina specialists

Time points 1 m/ 1 year:  
74.5% received no treatment during the first 28 days after diagnosis and only 15.6% started anti-VEGF therapy.  
A year after diagnosis, more than half (60.4%) remained untreated, including 81% of those who were only observed during the first month.  
Preferred agent BEV / AFL/ RBZ  
# injections 4.2

16. Ciulla TA, Williams DF. “Real-World” Outcomes for Anti-VEGF Therapy of Diabetic Macular Edema in USA. Presented at: 35th Annual Meeting of the ASRS; August 11-15, 2017; Boston.

17. Willis JR. IRIS. AAO, November 131-14, 2017, New Orleans.



# Conclusions

- Management of DME is complex and often multiple treatment approaches are needed
- Treatment for DME /DR
  - First line: Anti-VEGF
  - Second line:
- Multiple injections are required in the first year with diminishing injections in subsequent years
- Anti-VEGF have a disease modifying effect on DR

# Conclusions

- Major limitations to comparing pivotal trials with clinical practice data
  - Differing, mostly shorter study periods
  - Different reporting of efficacy endpoints:
    - Visual acuity
    - Smaller patient numbers
    - Less clearly defined patient populations,
      - especially in respect to duration of DME.
- Based on the pivotal trial findings, the current assumptions should be that delayed treatment of patients results in lower overall vision gains.

# DR Barometer

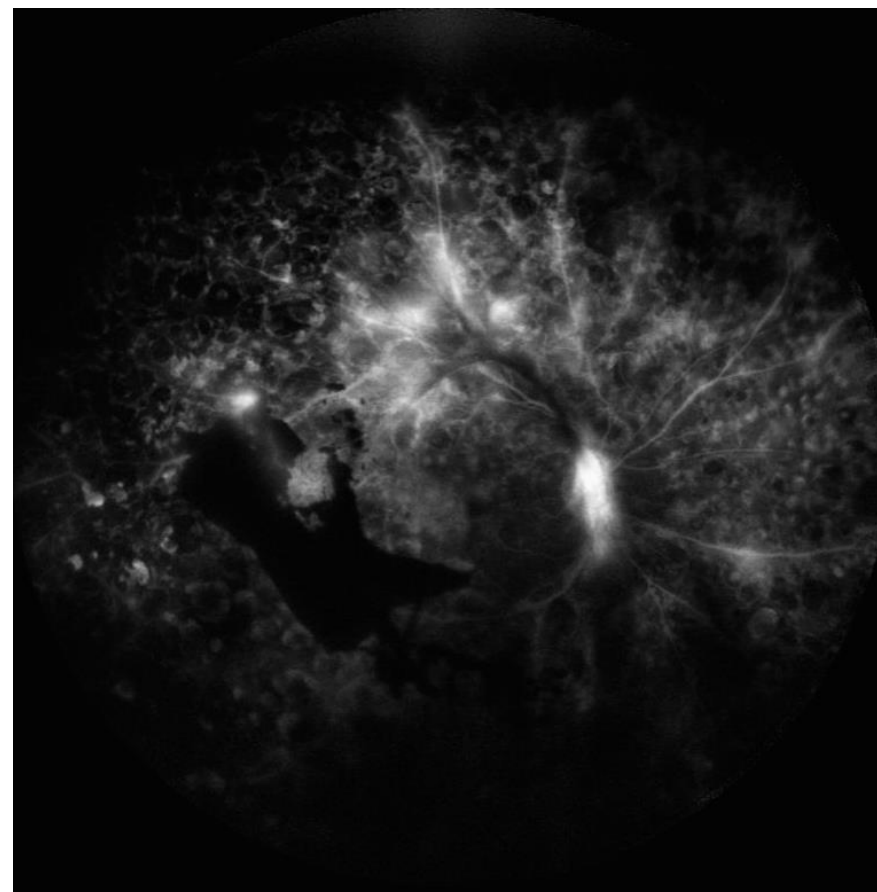
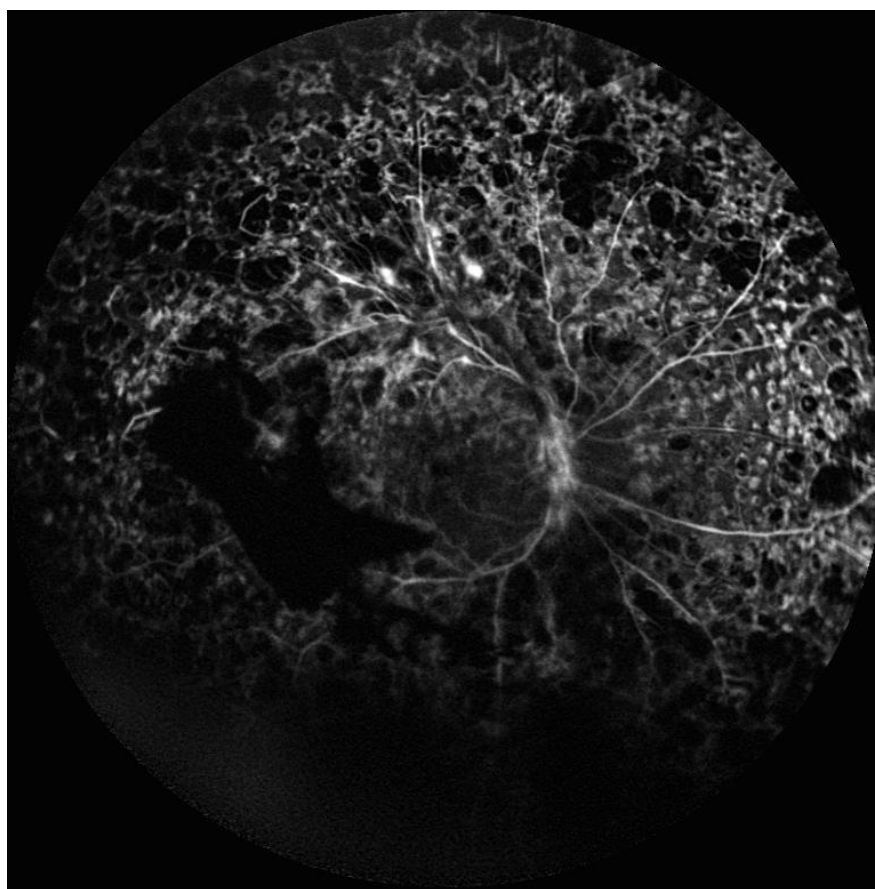
Shifting the needle



# Estudios en RD

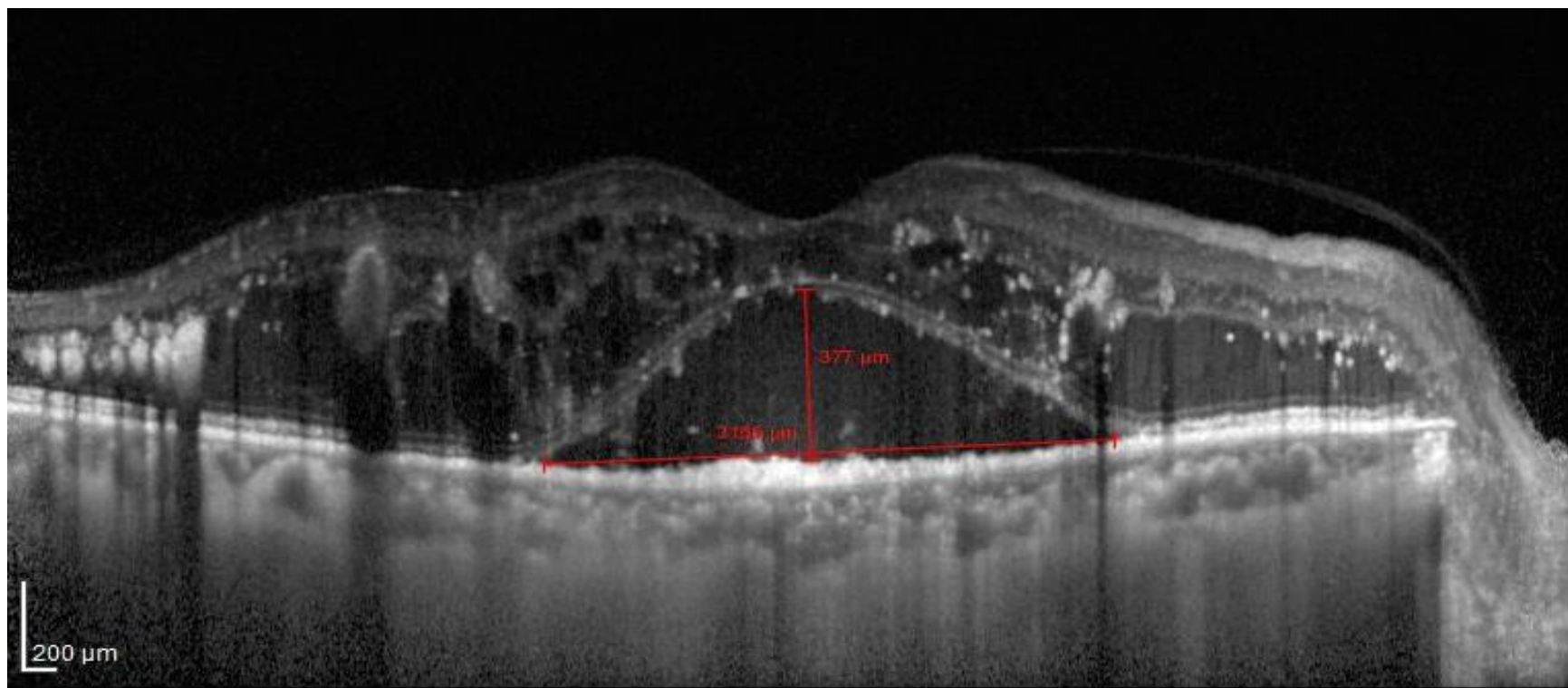
Severidad

- Angiografía Fluoresceínica Panorámica



# Diagnosis & F/U in DR and DME

- Optical Coherence Tomography
  - OCT





# Seguimiento en RD y EMD

- Fluorescein Angiography

