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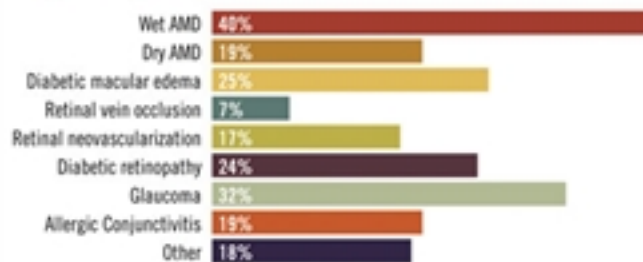
Setting Sights on Ocular Disorders

New Therapeutic Options Are in Development for Age-Related Macular Degeneration

- Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of blindness. There are two forms of AMD—wet and dry. Currently, the majority of therapeutics being developed are for wet AMD (Figure). The standard therapy for wet AMD is anti-VEGF injections.

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Which eye-related disorders do you see as having the most effective and promising therapeutic options?



Source: Insight Pharma Reports

Results of a recent poll by Insight Pharma Reports are eye opening.

- The benefit of these injections is that they hinder the progression of wet AMD. The challenge is that patients usually have to receive frequent injections to maintain the therapeutic benefit. Additionally, they don't reverse or stop the progression of damage to the eye, so this also poses a problem for patients who have had the disease long-term.
- In an effort to improve the current line of therapeutics, several companies have launched different targets and technologies in an effort to pursue alternative treatment options for wet AMD, ranging from inhibitors to implantable devices.
- There are many different technologies and devices in development for the treatment of ocular disorders, primarily wet AMD, and some for even dry AMD. These therapeutic approaches differ from one another substantially and include: radiation therapy, implantable telescope technology, and mucosal-penetrating products.

- Oraya Therapeutics is utilizing radiotherapy with a multi-unit system designed to carefully, and noninvasively, deliver X-rays to treat the macula for sub-foveal choroidal neovascularization due to AMD. VisionCare provides an implantable telescope in to the back of the eye. According to the company, it is the only surgical option that improves visual acuity by reducing the impact of the central vision blind spot caused by end-stage AMD.
- Combining both therapeutics and surgical procedures, Omeros is utilizing PharmacoSurgery, which is a multimodal and targeted approach to preemptively control the common problems induced by surgical and medical procedures. Complementing this procedure is Omeros's pipeline of therapeutic agents targeting ocular inflammation.
- Other products for inflammation are provided by Kala Pharmaceuticals, which has two targets in clinical trials and one that is expected to enter clinical trials in 2014. In addition to inflammation, their treatment candidates also focus on blepharitis and dry eye.

<http://www.genengnews.com/gen-articles/setting-sights-on-ocular-disorders/5108/>