LETTER

Depression and anxiety in age-related macular degeneration

Eung Suk Kim¹ Yonguk Kim¹ Seung-Young Yu¹ Moosang Kim²

¹Department of Ophthalmology, Kyung Hee University Hospital, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, ²Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon, Korea

Correspondence: Moosang Kim Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Kangwon National University, Baengnyeong-ro 156, Chuncheon, Kangwon, 200-722, Korea Tel +82 33 258 2014 Fax +82 33 258 2000 Email kimmoo-79@hanmail.net



Dear editor

We read with great interest the article titled "Treatment satisfaction of patients undergoing ranibizumab therapy for neovascular age-related macular degeneration in a real-life setting" by Gohil et al.¹ We are in agreement with their findings. We congratulate the authors for their well-organized study and would like to contribute to their findings.

Anxiety and depression that affect the state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing completely account for a patient's quality of life. Severe depression has been revealed to have worse effect on the prognosis of diseases such as breast cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes,2-4 whereas concurrent supportive management of depression may improve the treatment outcome in these diseases.

According to the recent report from Mathew et al,⁵ vision impairment and consequent functional disability caused by age-related macular degeneration (AMD) may cause high levels of clinical depression in patients, which has direct or indirect adverse effects on their quality of life.

Indeed, anxiety and depression affect the quality of life in AMD patients and can bring patients to address different satisfaction to their treatment outcome. In addition, it is convinced to have an influence on maintaining the life-long treatment, which is the key to a treatment success. Therefore, it is highly recommended to assess and support the mental health problems, including neuropsychiatric evaluation when necessary, of AMD patients undergoing anti-VEGF treatment, which may be helpful in maximizing the patient's treatment satisfaction.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

References

- 1. Gohil R, Crosby-Nwaobi R, Forbes A, Burton BJ, Hykin P, Sivaprasad S. Treatment satisfaction of patients undergoing ranibizumab therapy for neovascular age-related macular degeneration in a real-life setting. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2016;10:949-955.
- 2. Watson M, Haviland JS, Greer S, Davidson J, Bliss JM. Influence of psychological response on survival in breast cancer: a population-based cohort study. Lancet. 1999;354(9187):1331-1336.
- 3. Frasure-Smith N, Lespérance F, Talajic M. Depression and 18-month prognosis after myocardial infarction. Circulation. 1995;91(4):999-1005.
- 4. Barefoot JC, Brummett BH, Helms MJ, Mark DB, Siegler IC, Williams RB. Depressive symptoms and survival of patients with coronary artery disease. Psychosom Med. 2000;62(6):790-795.
- 5. Mathew RS, Delbaere K, Lord SR, Beaumont P, Vaegan, Madigan MC. Depressive symptoms and quality of life in people with age-related macular degeneration. Ophthalmic Physiol Opt. 2011;31(4): 375-380.

Patient Preference and Adherence 2016:10 1853-1854

1853

© 2016 Kim et al. This work is published and licensed by Dove Medical Press Limited. The full terms of this license are available at https://www.dovepress.com/terms.php hereby accept the Terms. Non-commercial uses of the work are permitted without any further permission from Dove Medical Press Limited, provided the work is properly attributed. For permission for commercial use of this work, please see paragraphs 4.2 and 5 of our Terms (http://www.dovepress.com/terms.php).

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Patient Preference and Adherence 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Patient Preference and Adherence editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Patient Preference and Adherence

Publish your work in this journal

Patient Preference and Adherence is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that focuses on the growing importance of patient preference and adherence throughout the therapeutic continuum. Patient satisfaction, acceptability, quality of life, compliance, persistence and their role in developing new therapeutic modalities and compounds to optimize

Submit your manuscript here: http://www.dovepress.com/patient-preference-and-adherence-journal

Dovepress

clinical outcomes for existing disease states are major areas of interest for the journal. This journal has been accepted for indexing on PubMed Central. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit http://www. dovepress.com/testimonials.php to read real quotes from published authors.