

Clinical Trial of Elamipretide Topical Ophthalmic Solution for the Treatment of Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

Rustum Karanjia, MD PhD FRCSC QGJM

Neuro-ophthalmologist

Assistant Professor and Vice-Chair (Research)

Department of Ophthalmology, University of Ottawa

Researcher

Doheny Eye Centers UCLA

Doheny Eye Institute

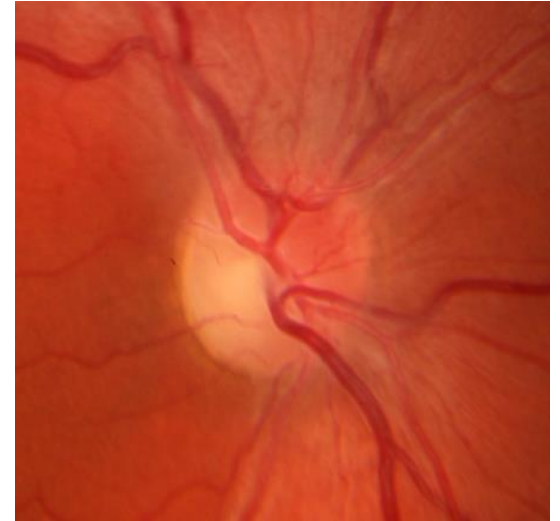


Disclosures

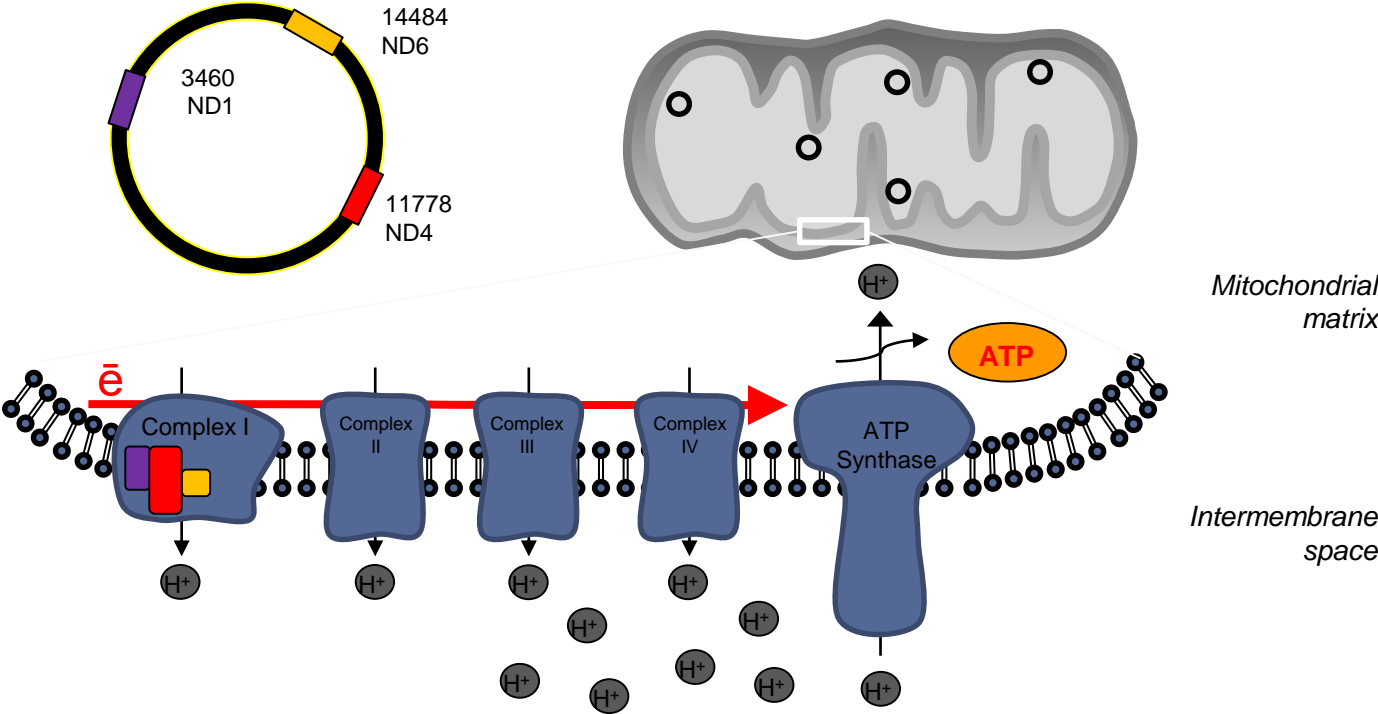
- Industry sponsored study by Stealth Biotherapeutics
- Consultant for GeneSight Biologics
- Research Support from UMDF, GeneSight, BioElectron

Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

- Subacute vision loss in one eye
 - Fellow eye involved in 3-9 weeks
- Dyschromatopsia, central scotoma
- Pseudo disc edema with telangiectasia
- Evolves optic atrophy and count fingers vision
- Mitochondrial Disease
 - mt11778, mt3460, mt14484



Electron Transport Chain



Cusp of Treatment

■ Antioxidants

- Idebenone (Raxone, Santhera)
- EPI-743 (BioElectron)

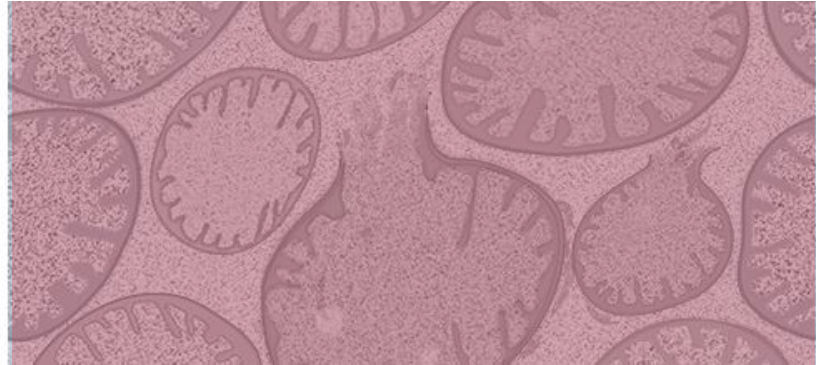
■ AAV-Vectors

- scAAV2 (University of Miami)
- GS010 (GenSight Biologics)
- rAAV2-ND4 (Hauzhong University of Science and Technology)

■ Others

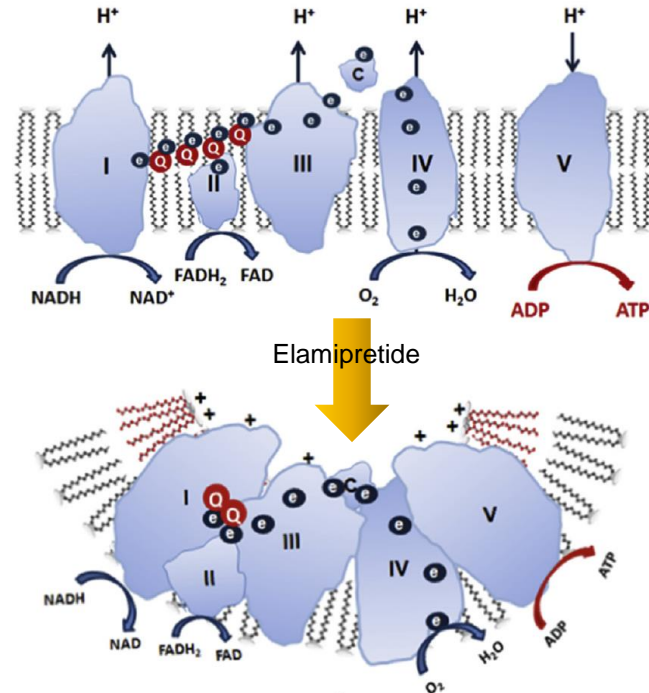
- Elamipretide (Stealth Biotechnology)

Mitochondria



Elamipretide

- Improves inner mitochondrial membrane formation of Super Complexes
- Increases respiration efficiency/ATP Production
- Decreases free electrons and ROS production



Szeto, H. H. and S. Liu (2018) *Arch Biochem Biophys* **660**: 137-148.

Phase IIB Randomized Double Masked Clinical Trial

- Topical 1% Elamipretide
- 12 Patients
- Primary Endpoint
 - Safety
- Secondary Endpoint
 - Visual Acuity
 - RNFL and RGCT Thickness
 - Color vision
 - Contrast Sensitivity
 - NEI VFQ-39

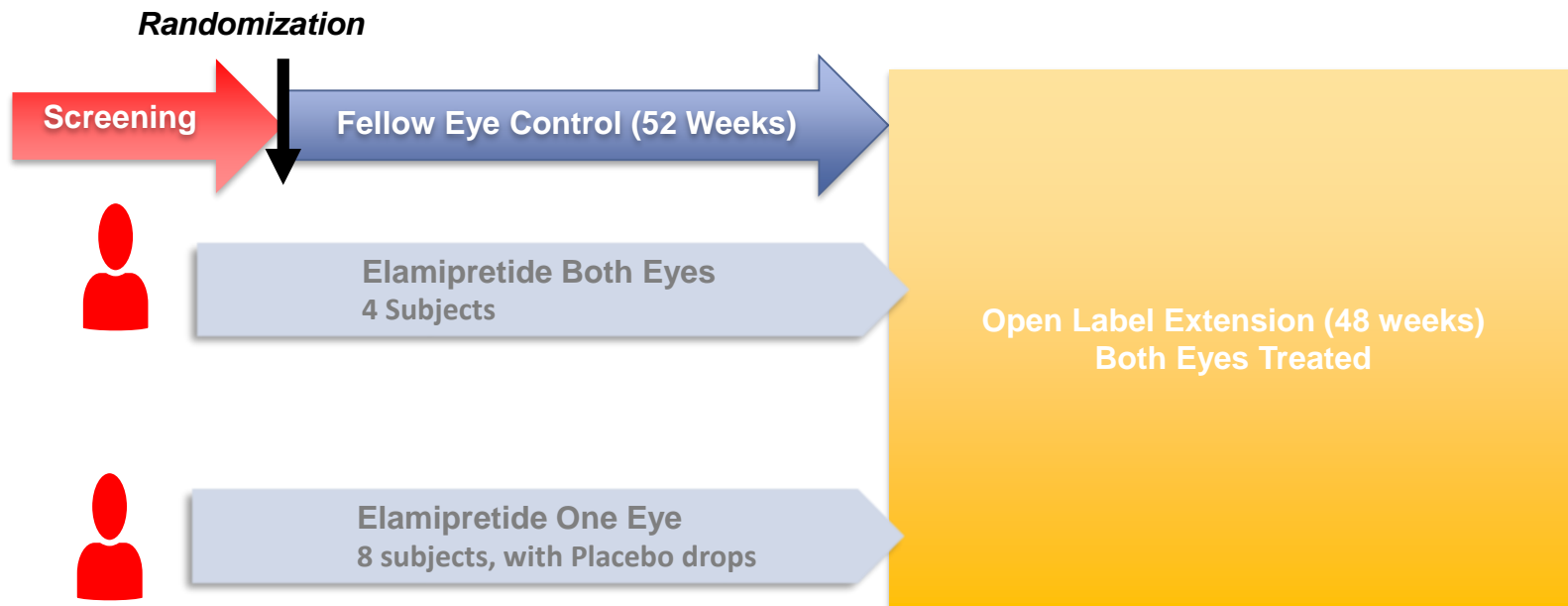
Phase IIB Randomized Double Masked Clinical Trial

Inclusion Criteria

- Adults ≥ 18 and ≤ 50 years old at the time of loss of vision in the second eye.
- m.11778G>A mutation
- Loss of vision in both eyes of ≥ 1 year and ≤ 10 years
- Clinically stable visual function
- Able to satisfactorily complete testing required for the trial
- Women of childbearing potential must agree to use birth control

Exclusion Criteria

- Any other ocular pathology requiring treatment with prescription topical ophthalmic drops
- Cup to disc ratio of > 0.8 in either eye
- Media opacity, suboptimal pupillary dilatation, or refractive error that interferes with adequate retinal imaging
- Known to be immunocompromised or receiving systemic immunosuppression
- Participation in other investigational drug or device clinical trials within 30 days
- Women who are pregnant or lactating



Demographic and Baseline Characteristics	Single Eye (N=8)	Bilateral (N=4)
Age	35.4	30.0
Gender (n)		
Male	7	3
Female	1	1
Duration of positive mtDNA testing (years)	3.52	4.31
VFQ-39	55.8	49.6
	Vehicle eyes (N=8)	Elamipretide-treated eyes (N=16)
BCVA (Letters ETDRS)	15.6	14.1
HVF (dB)	-22.6	-22.5
Color Discrimination – number of plates	0.0	0.9
Contrast Sensitivity	0.08	0.16
RNFL Thickness (µm)	56.0	59.8
RGCL Thickness (µm)	49.4	50.8

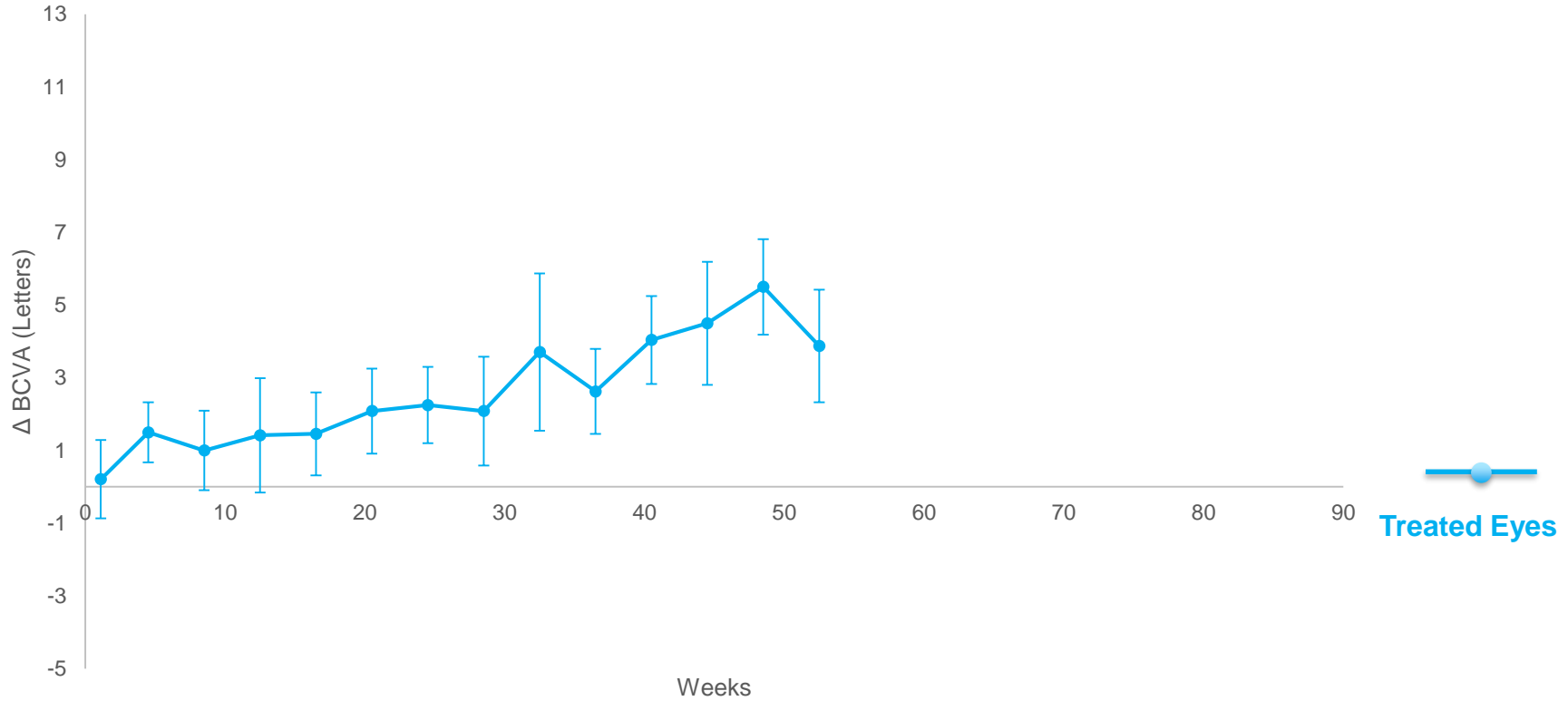
Primary Outcome Measure

- No Serious Adverse Events Reported

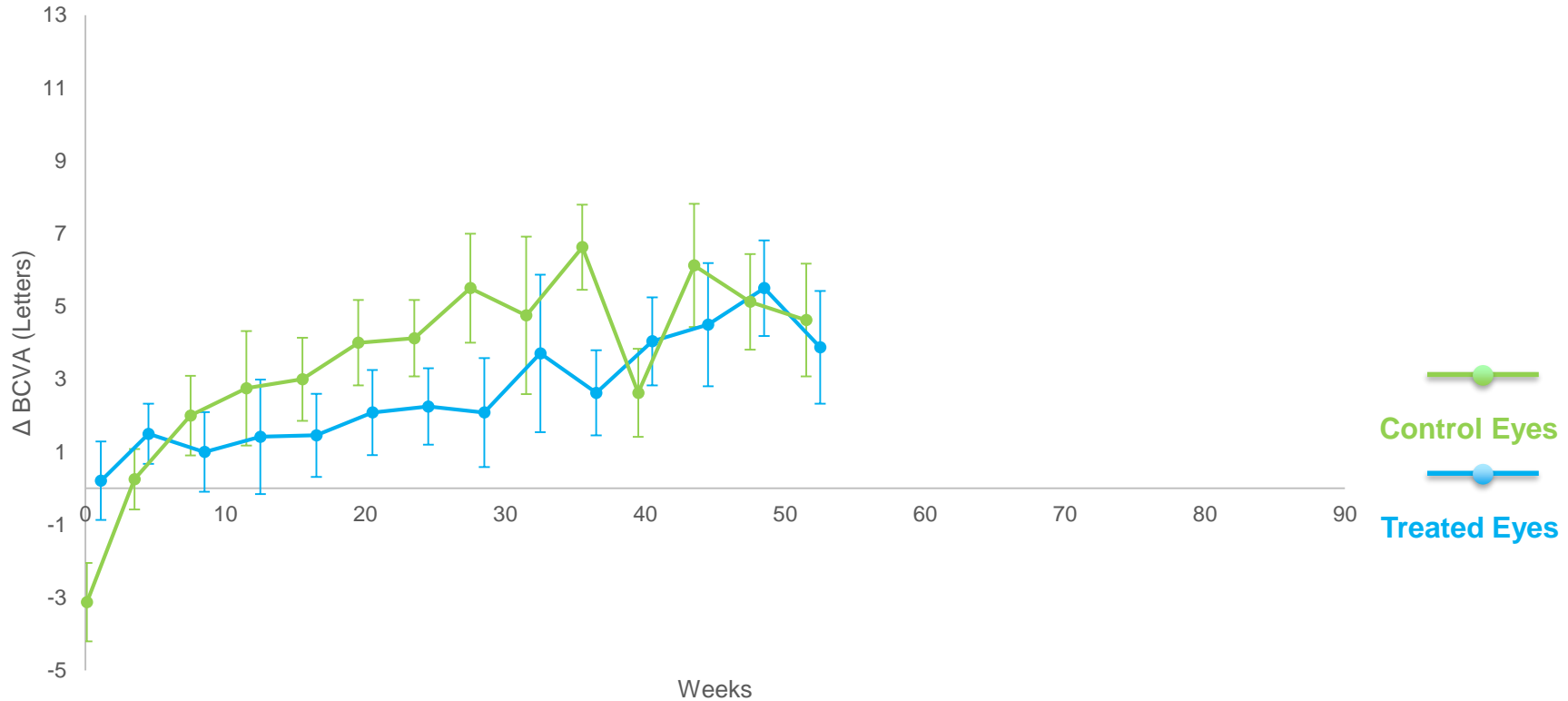
Adverse Events	Placebo (n=8)	Elamipretide (n=16)	Total (n= 24)
≥ one ocular AE	5 (63%)	11 (69%)	16 (67%)
Hyperemia	2 (25%)	2 (12.5%)	4 (16.7%)
Punctate keratitis	1 (12.5%)	3 (18.8%)	4 (16.7%)
Dry eye	0	3 (18.8%)	3 (12.5%)
Irritation	2 (25%)	4 (25%)	6 (25%)
Lacrimation	0	2 (12.5%)	2 (8.3%)

Secondary Outcome Measure

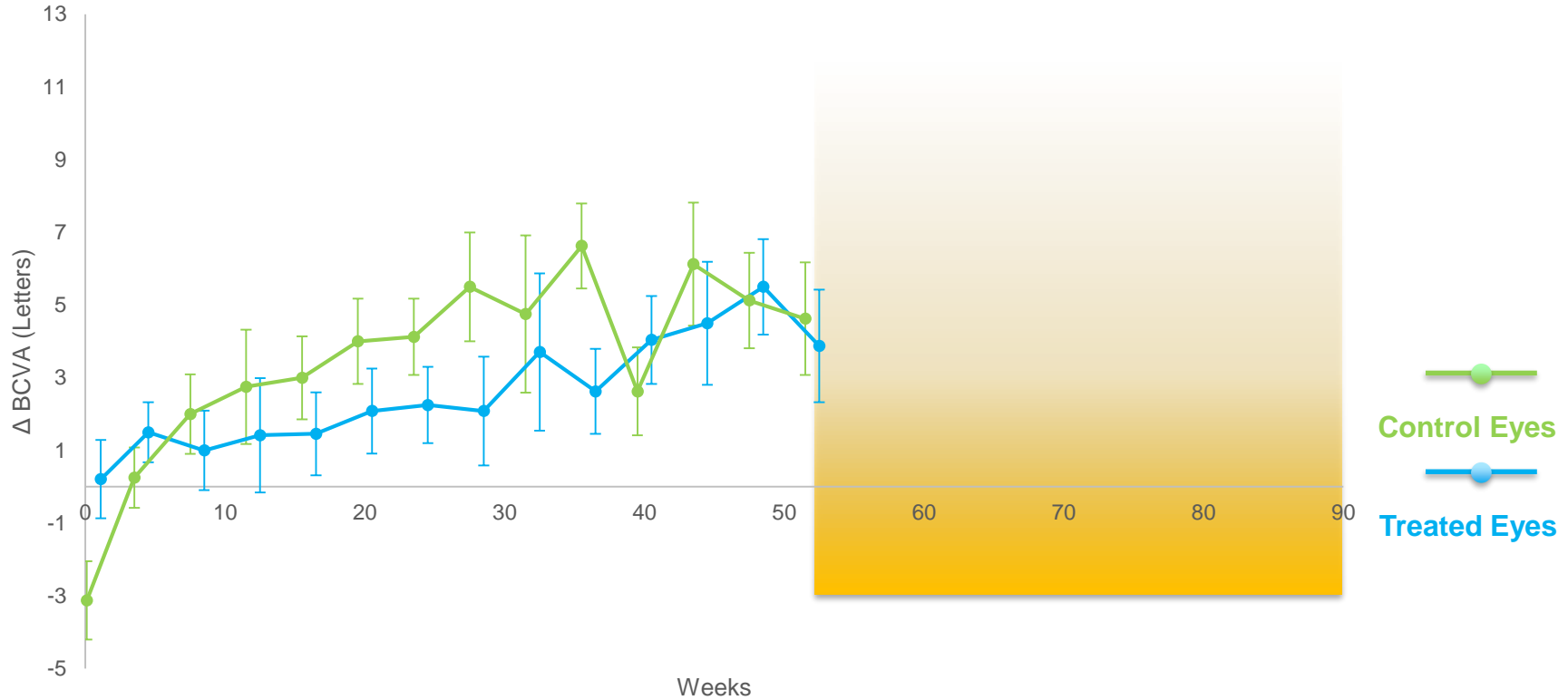
Best Corrected Visual Acuity



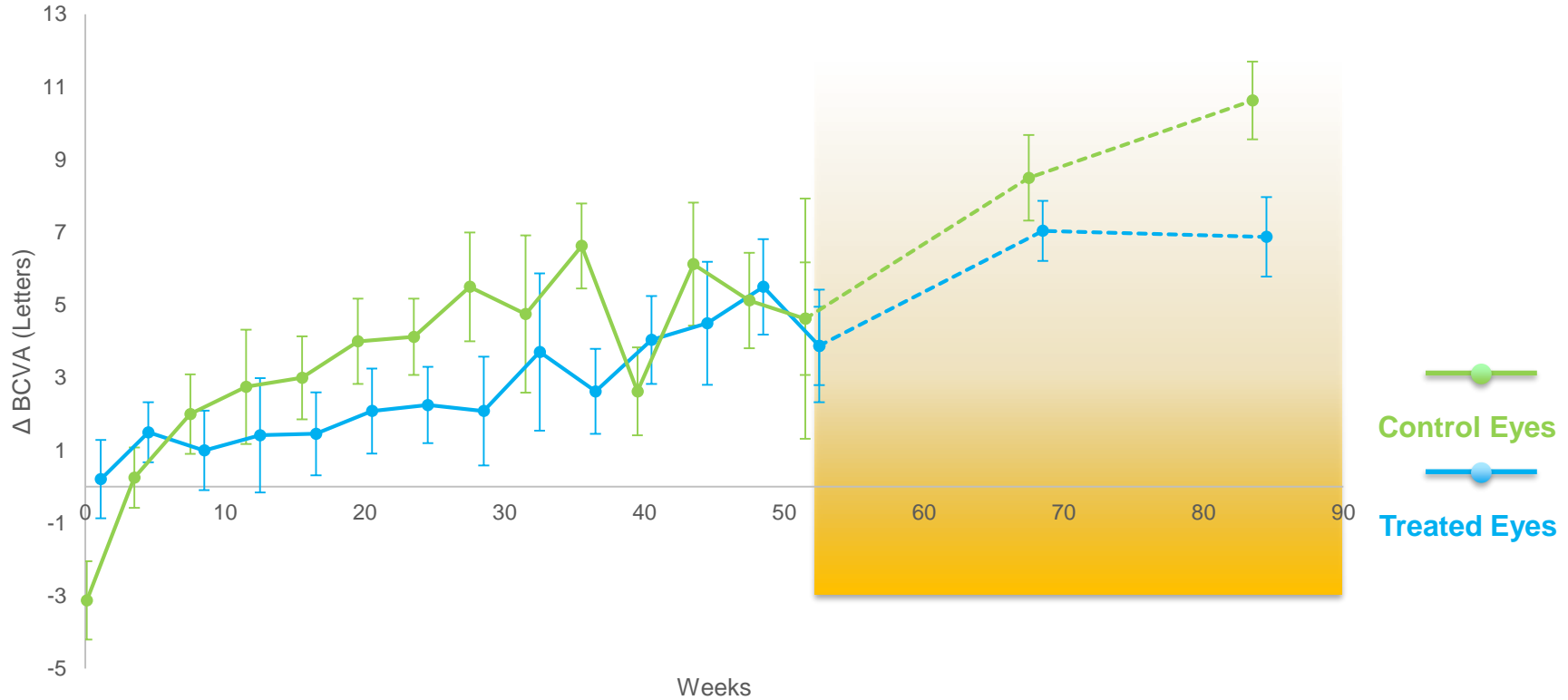
Best Corrected Visual Acuity



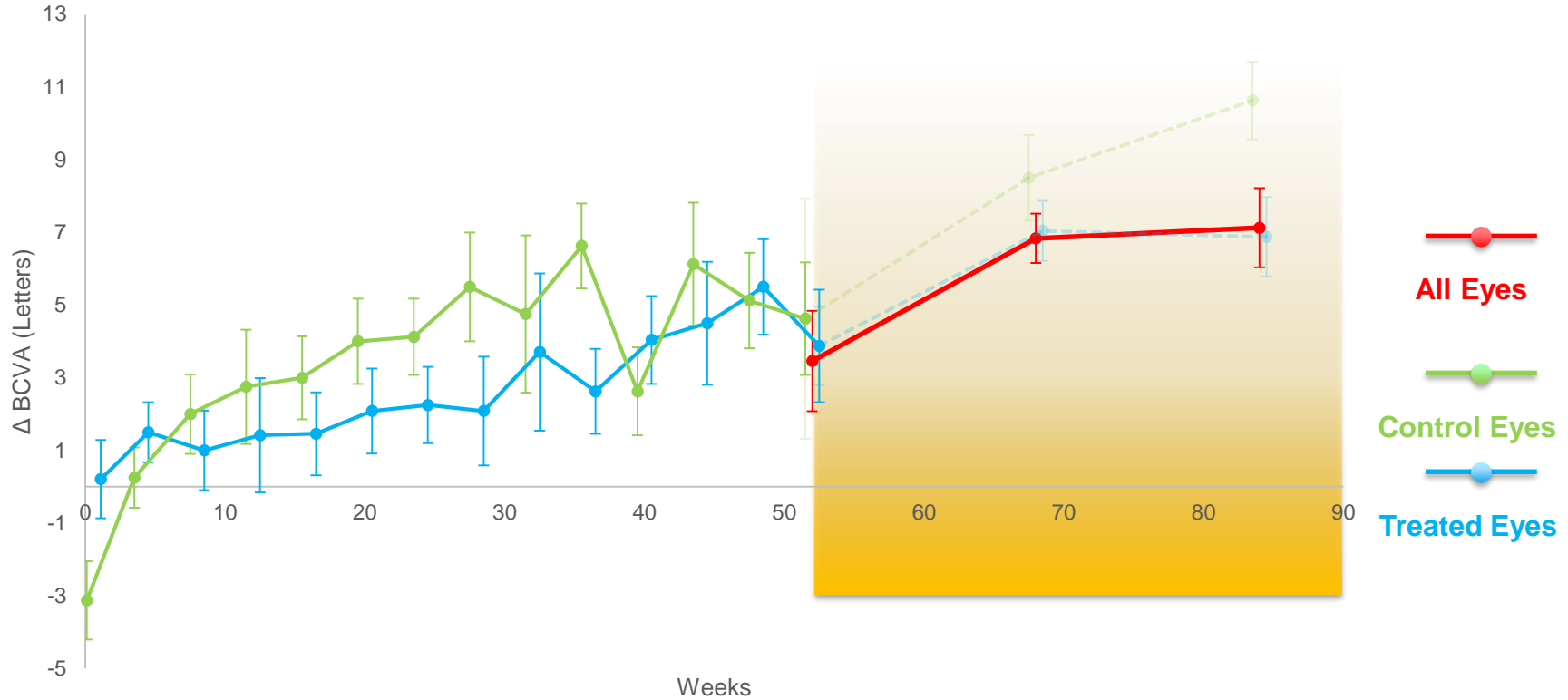
Best Corrected Visual Acuity



Best Corrected Visual Acuity



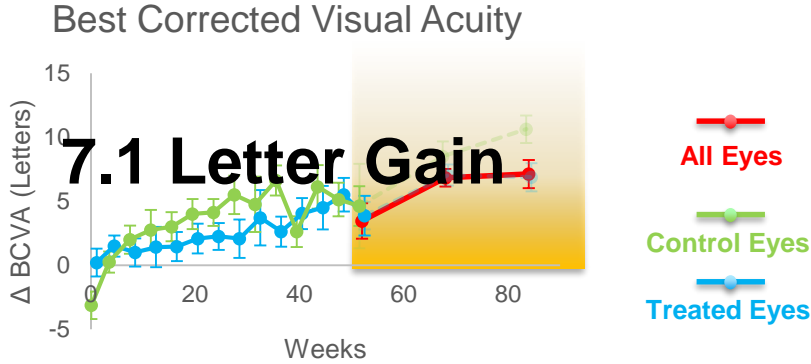
Best Corrected Visual Acuity



Best Corrected Visual Acuity



7.1 Letter Gain (p<0.05)



0.181 Gain (p<0.005)

4.6 dB Gain (p<0.025)

5.2 dB Gain (p=0.054)

Secondary Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Fellow Eye Control				Open Label Extension	
	Placebo	Elamipretide	Effect	P-Value	Effect v Baseline	P-Value
<i>BCVA (Letters)</i>	1.3	1.9	0.6	0.43	7.1	0.050
<i>Automated Visual Field (MD)</i>	1.0	1.8	0.8	0.02	4.6	0.025
<i>Central Visual Field (MD)</i>	0	1.8	1.8	<0.001	5.2	0.054
<i>Color Discrimination (Plates)</i>	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.08	1.6	0.004
<i>Contrast Sensitivity</i>	0.09	0.035	-0.055	0.002	0.181	0.005
<i>RNFL Thickness</i>	-3.9	-2.0	-1.9	0.43		
<i>RGCL Thickness</i>	-4.5	-3.0	-1.5	0.12		
<i>Quality of Life (NEI VFQ-39)</i>			6.0	0.006		

Results

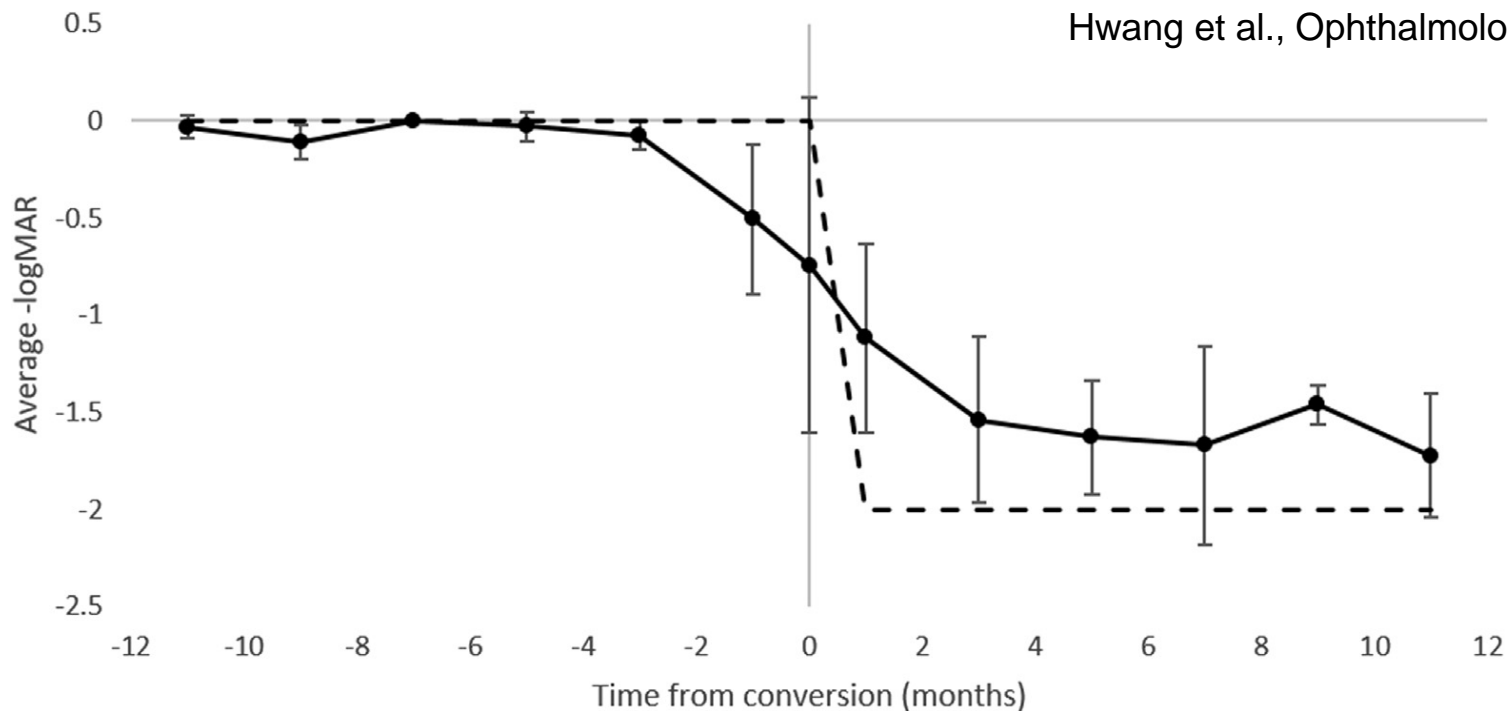
- No serious adverse events were reported
- There was an improvement in:
 - Mean Deviation
 - Color Discrimination
 - Contrast Sensitivity
 - VFQ-39

Challenges

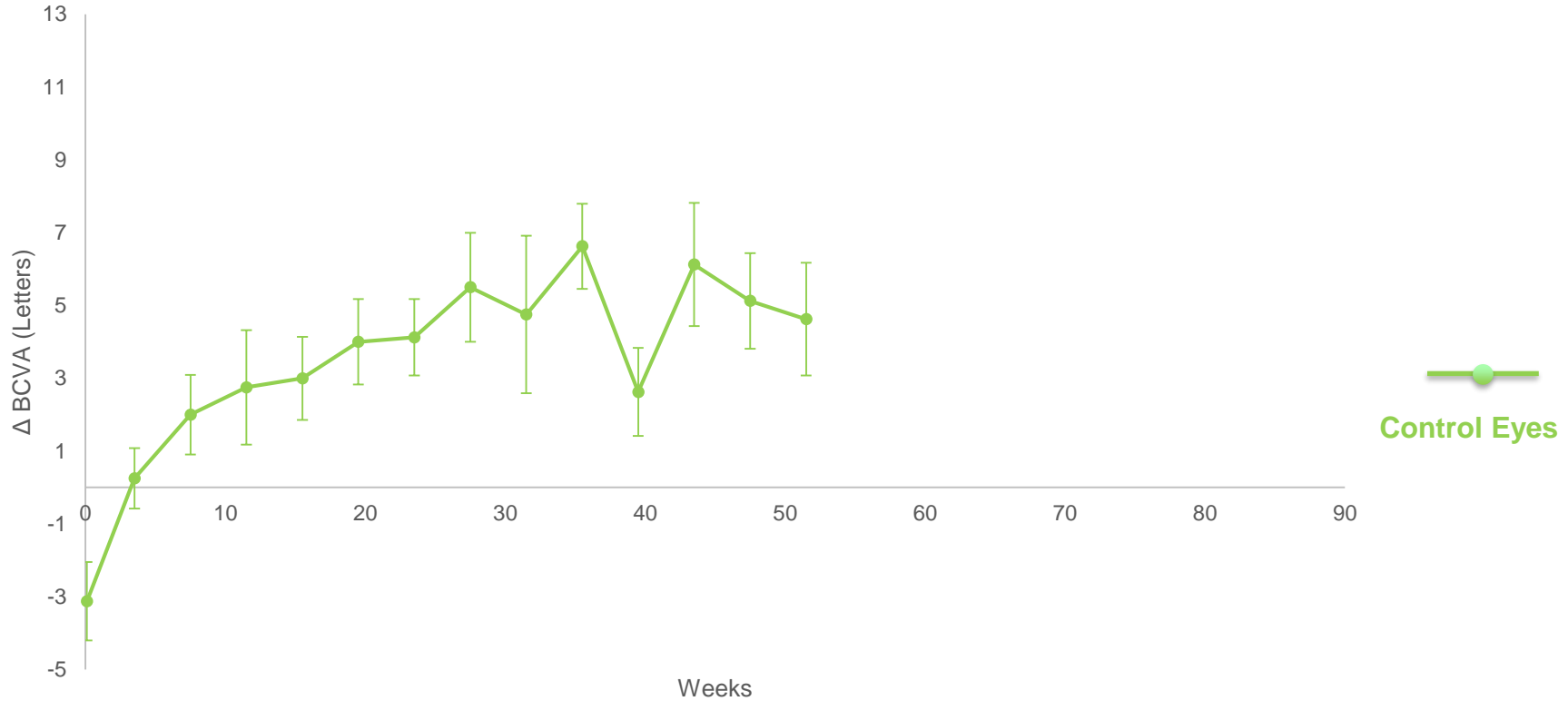
- Two Questions – One Study
- Delayed improvement in visual function

Average Visual Acuity

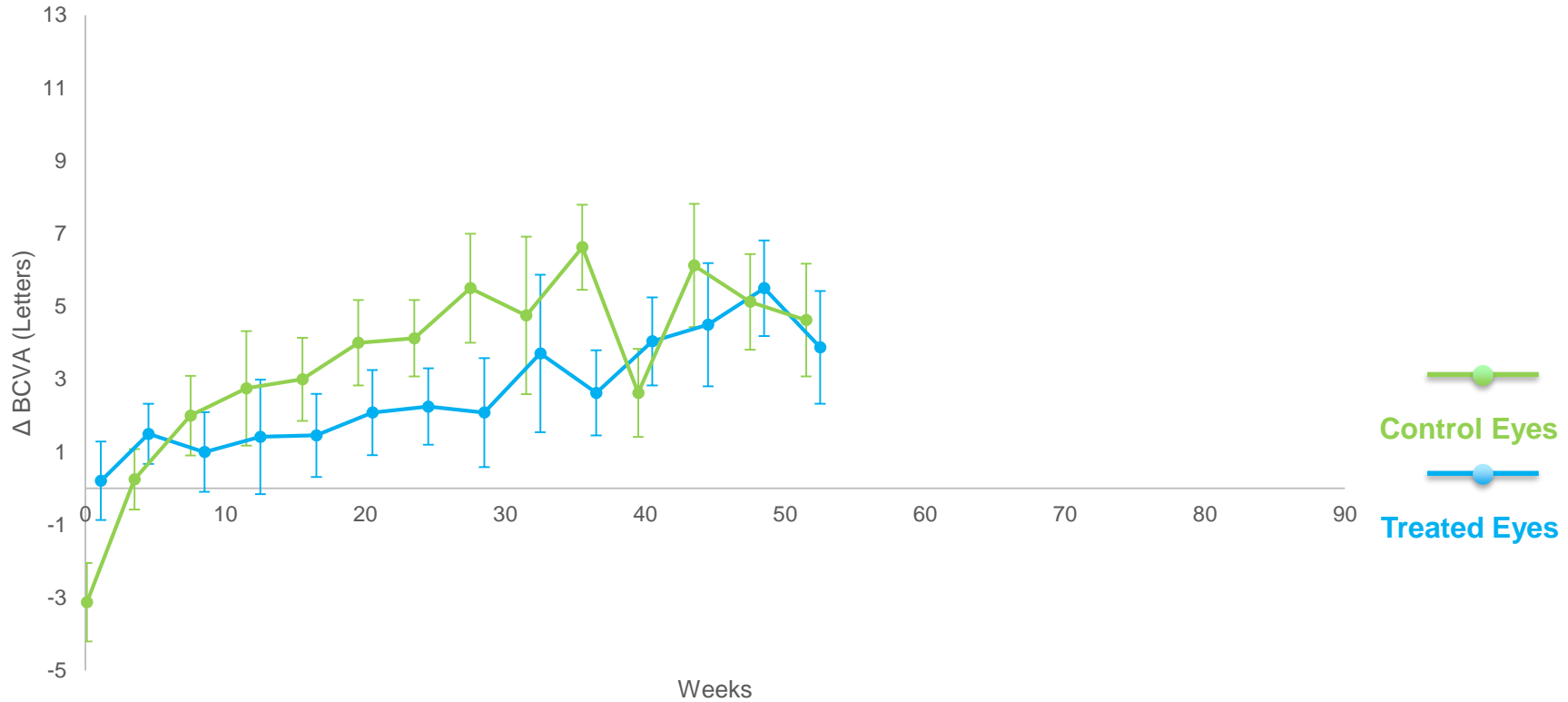
Hwang et al., Ophthalmology 2017



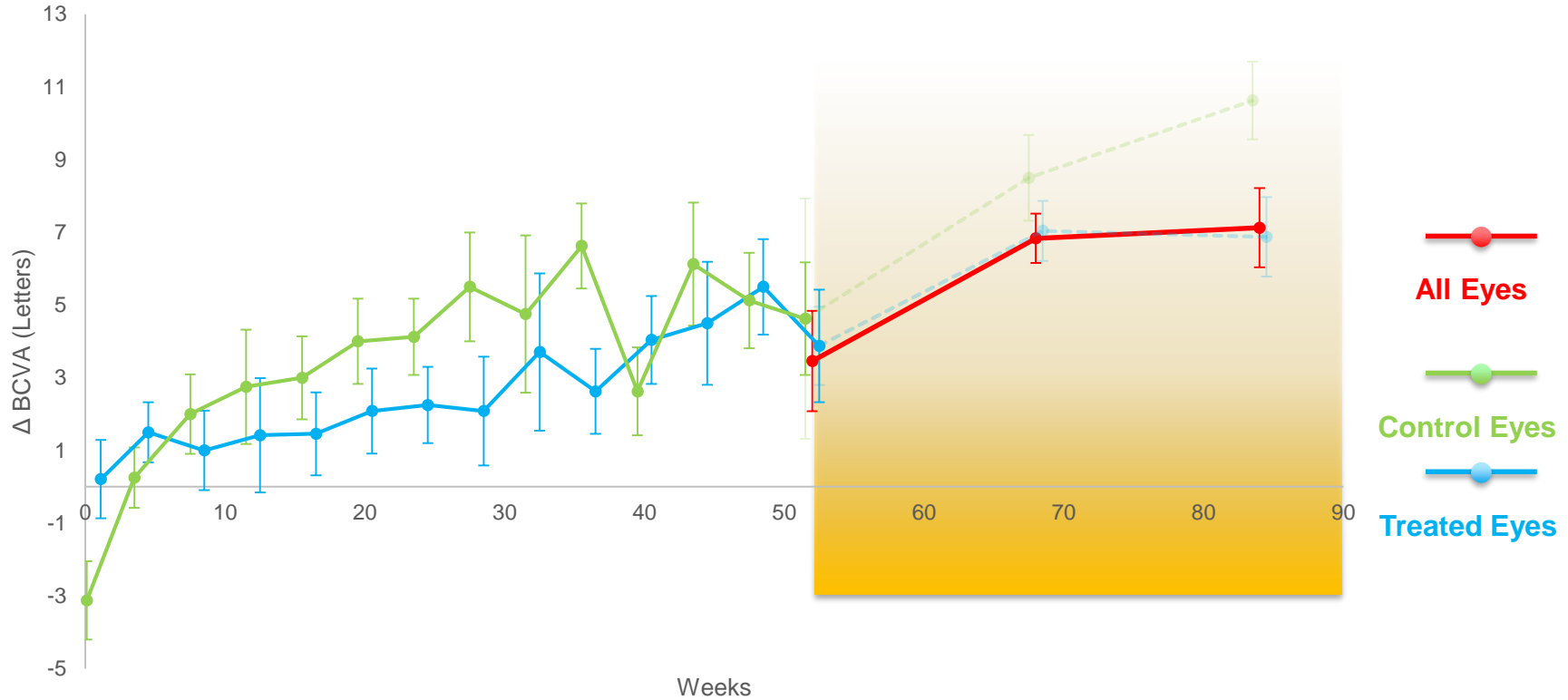
Best Corrected Visual Acuity



Best Corrected Visual Acuity



Best Corrected Visual Acuity



Challenges

- Two Questions – One Study
- Delayed improvement in visual function
 - Not unique to Elamipretide
 - Idebenone
 - EPI-743
- Placebo Effect
- Variability in natural history
- Bilateral improvement

Potential Treatment for LHON

- Small Study
- Larger clinical trial is warranted

Acknowledgements

- Alfredo A. Sadun MD PhD
- UCLA Clinical Trials
 - Ellen Pascual PhD
 - Martin Garcia
 - Janett Mendez
 - Rosio Mendoza
 - Shellee Rockwell

