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Columns MINIREVIEWS

**21** Diabetic macular edema: The efficacy and safety of anti-vascular endothelial growth factor therapy

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#### Abstract

**32** Diabetic retinopathy is one of the prominent causes of vision impairment in the working-age population in industrialized countries and is related to 1%-5% of cases of blindness in the world. Among patients with diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema (DME) is the major reason of vision impairment and represents a significant public health problem. Previous studies demonstrated the role of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in diabetic retinopathy and DME pathogenesis, and also revealed the efficacy of anti-VEGF agents for the management of these disorders. **20** This review summarizes the outcomes of clinical researches that evaluated the anti-VEGF therapy including pegaptanib, ranibizumab, bevacizumab, and aflibercept for the management of DME. A significant number of clinical trials indicated favorable functional and anatomical results of anti-VEGF therapy for DME. Therefore, these agents should be considered as an option in the treatment of DME in routine clinical practice.

**54** **Key words:** Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor; Aflibercept; Bevacizumab; Diabetic macular edema; Pegaptanib; Ranibizumab

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