IMPACT OF VISUAL ACUITY ON MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL COSTS IN PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM WET AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND ITALY
Benhaddi H1, Hieke K1, Negrini C3, Priol G1, Berdeaux G4, Le Pen C1
1Aremis, Neully sur Seine, Hauts de Seine, France; 2Neos Health, Binningen, Switzerland; 3PBE-Consulting, Verona, Italy; 4Alcon France SA, Rueil-Malmaison, Hauts de Seine, France

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the impact of best and worst eye visual acuity (VA) on the consumption of medical and non medical resources in patients with wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

METHODS: This study conducted in France, Germany and Italy was cross-sectional with some data collected retrospectively. Patients with an exudative AMD form were included and were stratified into four levels of severity using two VA thresholds, 20/200 for the worst eye (WE) and 20/40 for the best eye (BE). In addition to demographics, AMD description and VA data, the medical and non-medical resources used for AMD reasons during the previous year were collected.

CONCLUSIONS: Costs were assessed for each country according to a global payer perspective. An analysis of variance was performed on cost variables to estimate the impact of each eye adjusted by sex, age and country.

RESULTS: 360 patients were included with a majority of males (60%). Mean age at inclusion was 77 years and time since diagnosis 2.3 years. 27% of patients had BE >20/40 and WE >20/200 and 25.5% BE <20/40 and WE <20/200. Total costs were €3923.5 with 64.5% of medical costs and 35.5% of non-medical costs. Total costs increased with the AMD severity with a cost for the more severe group 1.5 times higher than for the less severe group. Costs were mainly associated with the BE VA. Medical cost was higher in France (€3714 versus €1900 on average in Germany and Italy). It increased slightly between less severe and more severe AMD. Non medical cost was significantly higher for patients with more severe disease and higher in Germany compared to the two other countries. CONCLUSION: This study shows the high impact of AMD on costs and the positive correlation between costs and AMD severity. Non medical costs of the most severe patients equaled medical costs.