

# CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

## Approval Package for:

### *APPLICATION NUMBER:*

**761125Orig1s004**

*Trade Name:* BEOVU

*Generic or Proper Name:* brolocizumab-dbl

*Sponsor:* Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

*Approval Date:* June 9, 2020

*Indication:* Treatment of Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

# CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

## 761125Orig1s004

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# **CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH**

*APPLICATION NUMBER:*

**761125Orig1s004**

**APPROVAL LETTER**



BLA 761125/S-004

## SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Attention: Dennis Wong, Ph.D.  
Global Program Regulatory Director  
One Health Plaza  
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Dear Dr. Wong:

Please refer to your supplemental biologics license application (sBLA), dated and received May 11, 2020, and your amendments, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for BEOVU (brolocuzumab-dbl) injection. This Prior Approval supplemental biologics application provides for the addition of “Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion” to the Warnings and Precautions section of the Prescribing Information.

### **APPROVAL & LABELING**

We have completed our review of this application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed agreed-upon labeling.

### **CONTENT OF LABELING**

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, via the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.14(b)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at FDA.gov,<sup>1</sup> that is identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the Prescribing Information, Patient Package Insert) and include the labeling changes proposed in any pending “Changes Being Effected” (CBE) supplements.

Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry *SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As*.<sup>2</sup>

The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm>

<sup>2</sup> We update guidances periodically. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA Guidance Documents Database <https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications that include labeling changes for this BLA, including pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements, for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.12(f)] in Microsoft Word format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application, as well as annual reportable changes. To facilitate review of your submission(s), provide a highlighted or marked-up copy that shows all changes, as well as a clean Microsoft Word version. The marked-up copy should provide appropriate annotations, including supplement number(s) and annual report date(s).

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved BLA (in 21 CFR 600.80 and in 21 CFR 600.81).

If you have any questions, call Derek Alberding, Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (240) 402-0963.

Sincerely,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

Wiley A. Chambers, M.D.  
(Acting) Director  
Division of Ophthalmology  
Office of Specialty Medicine  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

#### ENCLOSURE:

- Content of Labeling
  - Prescribing Information

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**This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically. Following this are manifestations of any and all electronic signatures for this electronic record.**  
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/s/  
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# CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

*APPLICATION NUMBER:*

**761125Orig1s004**

**LABELING**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use BEOVU safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for BEOVU.

**BEOVU® (brolucizumab-dblb) injection, for intravitreal use**  
Initial U.S. Approval: 2019

**RECENT MAJOR CHANGES**

Warnings and Precautions, Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachment (5.1)	6/2020
Warnings and Precautions, Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion (5.2)	6/2020

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

BEOVU is a human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) (1).

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

BEOVU is administered by intravitreal injection. The recommended dose for BEOVU is 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) monthly (approximately every 25-31 days) for the first three doses, followed by one dose of 6 mg (0.05 mL) every 8-12 weeks (2.2).

**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Intravitreal injection: 6 mg/0.05 mL solution in a single-dose vial (3).

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- Ocular or Periocular Infections (4.1).
- Active Intraocular Inflammation (4.2).
- Hypersensitivity (4.3).

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- Endophthalmitis and retinal detachment may occur following intravitreal injections. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment without delay (5.1).
- Retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion, typically in the presence of intraocular inflammation, have been reported following BEOVU injections. Patients should be instructed to report any change in vision without delay (5.2).
- Increases in intraocular pressure (IOP) have been seen within 30 minutes of an intravitreal injection (5.3).
- There is a potential risk of arterial thromboembolic events (ATE) following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors (5.4).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common adverse reactions (≥ 5%) reported in patients receiving BEOVU are vision blurred (10%), cataract (7%), conjunctival hemorrhage (6%), eye pain (5%), and vitreous floaters (5%) (6.1).

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1-888-669-6682 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

Revised: 6/2020

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\*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

BEOVU® is indicated for the treatment of Neovascular (Wet) Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 2.1 General Dosing Information

For ophthalmic intravitreal injection. BEOVU must be administered by a qualified physician.

#### 2.2 Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

The recommended dose for BEOVU is 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection monthly (approximately every 25-31 days) for the first three doses, followed by 6 mg (0.05 mL) by intravitreal injection once every 8-12 weeks.

#### 2.3 Preparation for Administration



Store BEOVU in the refrigerator between 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F); do not freeze. Keep the vial in the outer carton to protect from light.



Prior to use, the unopened glass vial of BEOVU may be kept at room temperature, 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F) for up to 24 hours. After opening the glass vial, proceed under aseptic conditions.



BEOVU is a clear to slightly opalescent and colorless to slightly brownish-yellow solution.

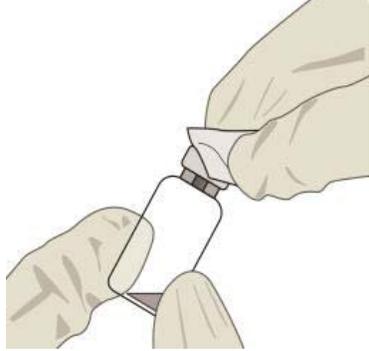
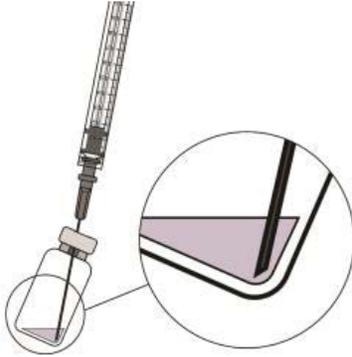


BEOVU should be inspected visually upon removal from the refrigerator and prior to administration. If particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible, the glass vial must not be used.

The BEOVU kit includes the sterile glass vial and filter needle which are for single use only. Do not use if the packaging, vial and/or filter needle are damaged or expired [see *How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)*].

Use aseptic technique for preparation of the intravitreal injection.

<p><b>STEP 1:</b> Gather the supplies needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One BEOVU vial (included)</li> <li>• One sterile 5-micron blunt filter needle (18-gauge x 1½ inch, 1.2 mm x 40 mm) (included)</li> <li>• One sterile 30-gauge x ½ inch injection needle (<b>not included</b>)</li> <li>• One sterile 1 mL syringe with a 0.05 mL dose mark (<b>not included</b>)</li> <li>• Alcohol swab (<b>not included</b>)</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>STEP 2</b></p> <p>Allow vial to come to room temperature and inspect the solution. If particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible, discard the vial and obtain a new vial.</p>	
<p><b>STEP 3</b></p> <p>Remove the vial cap and clean the vial septum (e.g., with alcohol swab) (see Figure 1).</p>	<p><b>Figure 1:</b></p> 
<p><b>STEP 4</b></p> <p>Assemble the 5-micron filter needle (18-gauge x 1½ inch) onto a 1-mL syringe using aseptic technique.</p>	
<p><b>STEP 5</b></p> <p>Push the filter needle into the center of the vial septum until the needle touches the bottom of the vial.</p>	
<p><b>STEP 6</b></p> <p>To withdraw the liquid, hold the vial slightly inclined and slowly withdraw all the liquid from the vial and filter needle (see Figure 2).</p> <p>Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial in order to completely empty the filter needle.</p>	<p><b>Figure 2:</b></p> 
<p><b>STEP 7</b></p> <p>Disconnect the filter needle from the syringe in an aseptic manner and dispose of it. <b>The filter needle is not to be used for the intravitreal injection.</b></p>	
<p><b>STEP 8</b></p> <p>Aseptically and firmly assemble a 30-gauge x ½ inch injection needle onto the syringe.</p>	

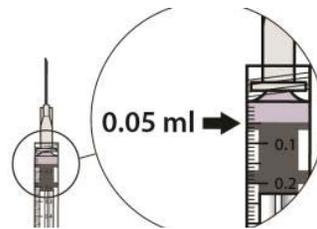
**STEP 9**

Check for air bubbles by holding the syringe with the needle pointing up. If there are any air bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3:****STEP 10**

Carefully expel the air from the syringe and adjust the dose to the 0.05 mL mark (see Figure 4).

The syringe is ready for the injection.

**Figure 4:****2.4 Injection Procedure**

Ensure that the injection is given immediately after preparation of the dose.

The intravitreal injection procedure must be carried out under aseptic conditions, which includes the use of surgical hand disinfection, sterile gloves, a sterile drape and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent), and the availability of sterile paracentesis equipment (if required). Adequate anesthesia and a broad-spectrum topical microbicide to disinfect the periocular skin, eyelid, and ocular surface should be administered prior to the injection.

Inject slowly until the rubber stopper reaches the end of the syringe to deliver the volume of 0.05 mL. Confirm delivery of the full dose by checking that the rubber stopper has reached the end of the syringe barrel.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure (IOP). Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, a sterile paracentesis needle should be available.

Following intravitreal injection, patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment (e.g., eye pain, redness of the eye, photophobia, blurring of vision) without delay [*see Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

Each vial should only be used for the treatment of a single eye. If the contralateral eye requires treatment, a new vial should be used and the sterile field, syringe, gloves, drapes, eyelid speculum, filter, and injection needles should be changed before BEOVU is administered to the other eye.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations.

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Intravitreal injection: 6 mg/0.05 mL, clear to slightly opalescent and colorless to slightly brownish-yellow solution in a single-dose vial.

## 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

### 4.1 Ocular or Periocular Infections

BEOVU is contraindicated in patients with ocular or periocular infections.

### 4.2 Active Intraocular Inflammation

BEOVU is contraindicated in patients with active intraocular inflammation.

### 4.3 Hypersensitivity

BEOVU is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to brolocizumab or any of the excipients in BEOVU. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as rash, pruritus, urticaria, erythema, or severe intraocular inflammation.

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### 5.1 Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachment

Intravitreal injections, including those with BEOVU, have been associated with endophthalmitis and retinal detachment [see *Contraindications (4.1) and Adverse Reactions (6.1)*]. Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering BEOVU. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment without delay and should be managed appropriately [see *Dosage and Administration (2.4) and Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

### 5.2 Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion

Retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion, typically in the presence of intraocular inflammation, have been reported with the use of BEOVU [see *Contraindications (4.2) and Adverse Reactions (6.1)*]. Patients should be instructed to report any change in vision without delay.

### 5.3 Increase in Intraocular Pressure

Acute increases in intraocular pressure (IOP) have been seen within 30 minutes of intravitreal injection including with BEOVU [see *Adverse Reactions (6.1)*]. Sustained IOP increases have also been reported. Both IOP and perfusion of the optic nerve head must be monitored and managed appropriately [see *Dosage and Administration (2.4)*].

### 5.4 Thromboembolic Events

Although there was a low rate of arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) observed in the BEOVU clinical trials, there is a potential risk of ATEs following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors. Arterial thromboembolic events are defined as nonfatal stroke, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or vascular death (including deaths of unknown cause).

The ATE rate in the two controlled 96-week neovascular AMD studies (HAWK and HARRIER) during the first 96-weeks was 4.5% (33 of 730) in the pooled brolocizumab arms compared with 4.7% (34 of 729) in the pooled aflibercept arms [see *Clinical Studies (14.1)*].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following potentially serious adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:

- Hypersensitivity [see *Contraindications (4.3)*]
- Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachment [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]
- Increase in Intraocular Pressure [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]
- Thromboembolic Events [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*]

### 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in one clinical trial of a drug cannot be directly compared with rates in the clinical trials of the same or another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

A total of 1088 patients, treated with brolocizumab, constituted the safety population in the two controlled neovascular AMD Phase 3 studies (HAWK and HARRIER) with a cumulative 96 week exposure to BEOVU, and 730 patients treated with the recommended dose of 6 mg [see *Clinical Studies (14.1)*].

Adverse reactions reported to occur in  $\geq 1\%$  of patients who received treatment with BEOVU pooled across HAWK and HARRIER, are listed below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Common Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) in the HAWK and HARRIER wet AMD Clinical Trials**

Adverse Drug Reactions	BEOVU (N = 730)	Active Control (aflibercept) (N = 729)
Vision blurred <sup>a</sup>	10%	11%
Cataract	7%	11%
Conjunctival hemorrhage	6%	7%
Vitreous floaters	5%	3%
Eye pain	5%	6%
Intraocular inflammation <sup>b</sup>	4%	1%
Intraocular pressure increased	4%	5%
Retinal hemorrhage	4%	3%
Vitreous detachment	4%	3%
Conjunctivitis	3%	2%
Retinal pigment epithelial tear	3%	1%
Corneal abrasion	2%	2%
Hypersensitivity <sup>c</sup>	2%	1%
Punctate keratitis	1%	2%
Retinal tear	1%	1%
Endophthalmitis	1%	< 1%
Blindness <sup>d</sup>	1%	< 1%
Retinal artery occlusion	1%	< 1%
Retinal detachment	1%	< 1%
Conjunctival hyperemia	1%	1%
Lacrimation increased	1%	1%
Abnormal sensation in eye	1%	2%
Detachment of retinal pigment epithelium	1%	< 1%
<sup>a</sup> Including vision blurred, visual acuity reduced, visual acuity reduced transiently and visual impairment. <sup>b</sup> Including anterior chamber cell, anterior chamber flare, anterior chamber inflammation, chorioretinitis, eye inflammation, iridocyclitis, iritis, retinal vasculitis, retinal vascular occlusion, uveitis, vitreous haze, vitritis. <sup>c</sup> Including urticaria, rash, pruritus, erythema. <sup>d</sup> Including blindness, blindness transient, amaurosis, and amaurosis fugax.		

## 6.2 Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for an immune response in patients treated with BEOVU. The immunogenicity of BEOVU was evaluated in serum samples. The immunogenicity data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for antibodies to BEOVU in immunoassays. The detection of an immune response is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assays used, sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to BEOVU with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

Anti-brolucizumab antibodies were detected in the pre-treatment sample of 36% to 52% of treatment naive patients. After initiation of dosing, anti-brolucizumab antibodies were detected in at least one serum sample in 53% to 67% of patients treated with BEOVU. Intraocular inflammation was observed in 6% of patients with anti-brolucizumab antibodies detected during dosing with BEOVU.

The significance of anti-brolucizumab antibodies on the clinical effectiveness and safety of BEOVU is not known.

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

#### Risk Summary

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of BEOVU administration in pregnant women.

Based on the anti-VEGF mechanism of action for brolucizumab [*see Clinical Pharmacology (12.1)*], treatment with BEOVU may pose a risk to human embryo-fetal development. BEOVU should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus.

All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, and other adverse outcomes. The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects is 2%-4% and of miscarriage is 15%-20% of clinically recognized pregnancies.

#### Data

##### *Animal Data*

VEGF inhibition has been shown to cause malformations, embryo-fetal resorption, and decreased fetal weight. VEGF inhibition has also been shown to affect follicular development, corpus luteum function, and fertility.

### 8.2 Lactation

#### Risk Summary

There is no information regarding the presence of brolucizumab in human milk, the effects of the drug on the breastfed infant, or the effects of the drug on milk production/excretion. Because many drugs are transferred in human milk and because of the potential for absorption and adverse reactions in the breastfed child, breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment and for at least one month after the last dose when stopping treatment with BEOVU.

### 8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

#### Contraception

##### *Females*

Females of reproductive potential should use highly effective contraception (methods that result in less than 1% pregnancy rates) during treatment with BEOVU and for at least one month after the last dose when stopping treatment with BEOVU.

#### Infertility

No studies on the effects of brolucizumab on fertility have been conducted and it is not known whether brolucizumab can affect reproductive capacity. Based on its anti-VEGF mechanism of action, treatment with BEOVU may pose a risk to reproductive capacity.

### 8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and efficacy of BEOVU in pediatric patients has not been established.

## 8.5 Geriatric Use

In the two Phase 3 clinical studies, approximately 90% (978/1089) of patients randomized to treatment with BEOVU were  $\geq 65$  years of age and approximately 60% (648/1089) were  $\geq 75$  years of age. No significant differences in efficacy or safety were seen with increasing age in these studies. No dosage regimen adjustment is required in patients 65 years and above.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

Brolucizumab-dbll is a recombinant human vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitor. Brolucizumab-dbll is a humanized monoclonal single-chain Fv (scFv) antibody fragment. Brolucizumab-dbll has a molecular weight of  $\sim 26$  kilodaltons and is produced in *Escherichia coli* cells by recombinant DNA technology.

BEOVU (brolucizumab-dbll) injection is a sterile, preservative-free, clear to slightly opalescent, colorless to slightly brownish-yellow solution in a single-dose vial for intravitreal administration. Each vial is designed to deliver 0.05 mL of solution containing 6 mg brolucizumab-dbll, polysorbate 80 (0.02%), sodium citrate (10 mM), sucrose (5.8%), and Water for Injection, USP and with a pH of approximately 7.2.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Brolucizumab is a human VEGF inhibitor. Brolucizumab binds to the three major isoforms of VEGF-A (e.g., VEGF<sub>110</sub>, VEGF<sub>121</sub>, and VEGF<sub>165</sub>), thereby preventing interaction with receptors VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2. By inhibiting VEGF-A, brolucizumab suppresses endothelial cell proliferation, neovascularization, and vascular permeability.

### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

Leakage of blood and fluid from choroidal neovascularization (CNV) may cause retinal thickening or edema. Reductions in central retinal subfield thickness (CST) were observed across all treatment arms.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Following a single intravitreal dose of 6 mg BEOVU to 25 AMD patients, the mean (range) serum  $C_{max}$  of free brolucizumab (unbound to VEGF-A) was 49 ng/mL (9 to 548 ng/mL) and was attained at 24 hours post-dose. Brolucizumab concentrations were near or less than 0.5 ng/mL (lower limit of assay quantitation) at approximately 4 weeks after repeat dose administration and no accumulation in serum was observed in most patients.

#### Elimination

The estimated mean ( $\pm$  standard deviation) systemic half-life of brolucizumab is 4.4 days ( $\pm 2.0$  days) after a single intravitreal dose.

#### Metabolism

Metabolism of brolucizumab has not been fully characterized. However, free brolucizumab is expected to undergo metabolism via proteolysis.

#### Excretion

The excretion of brolucizumab has not been fully characterized. However, free brolucizumab is expected to undergo target-mediated disposition and/or passive renal excretion.

#### Specific Populations

Following repeat intravitreal dose administration of 6 mg BEOVU, no differences in the systemic pharmacokinetics of brolucizumab were observed based on age (50 years and above), sex, or mild to moderate renal impairment (glomerular filtration rate (GFR) = 30 to 70 mL/min, estimated using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) equation). The effect of severe renal impairment or any degree of hepatic impairment on the pharmacokinetics of BEOVU is unknown. As significant increases in serum brolucizumab exposures are not expected with intravitreal route of administration, no dosage adjustment is needed based on renal or hepatic impairment status.

#### Drug Interaction Studies

No studies evaluating the drug interaction potential of BEOVU have been conducted.

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No studies have been conducted on the carcinogenic or mutagenic potential of BEOVU. Based on the anti-VEGF mechanism of action, treatment with BEOVU may pose a risk to reproductive capacity [see *Use in Specific Populations* (8.3)].

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

### 14.1 Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

The safety and efficacy of BEOVU were assessed in two randomized, multi-center, double-masked, active-controlled studies (HAWK - NCT02307682 and HARRIER - NCT02434328) in patients with neovascular AMD. A total of 1817 patients were treated in these studies for two years (1088 on brolocizumab and 729 on control). Patient ages ranged from 50 to 97 years with a mean of 76 years.

In HAWK, patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to the following dosing regimens:

- 1) brolocizumab 3 mg administered every 8 or 12 weeks after the first 3 monthly doses,
- 2) brolocizumab 6 mg administered every 8 or 12 weeks after the first 3 monthly doses,
- 3) aflibercept 2 mg administered every 8 weeks after the first 3 monthly doses.

In HARRIER, patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to the following dosing regimens:

- 1) brolocizumab 6 mg administered every 8 or 12 weeks after the first 3 monthly doses,
- 2) aflibercept 2 mg administered every 8 weeks after the first 3 monthly doses.

In both studies, after three initial monthly doses (Week 0, 4, and 8), treating physicians decided whether to treat each individual patient on an every 8 week or 12 week dosing interval guided by visual and anatomical measures of disease activity, although the utility of these measures has not been established. Patients on 12 week dosing intervals could be changed based on the same measures to an 8 week schedule after subsequent treatment visits. Any patient placed on an 8 week schedule, remained on the 8 week dosing interval until the end of the study. Protocol-specified visits in the initial three months occurred every  $28 \pm 3$  days followed by every  $28 \pm 7$  days for the remainder of the studies. Baseline anatomical measures may have contributed to the regimen selection because the majority of patients on the 12-week dosing schedule at the end of the trial had less baseline macular edema and/or smaller baseline lesions.

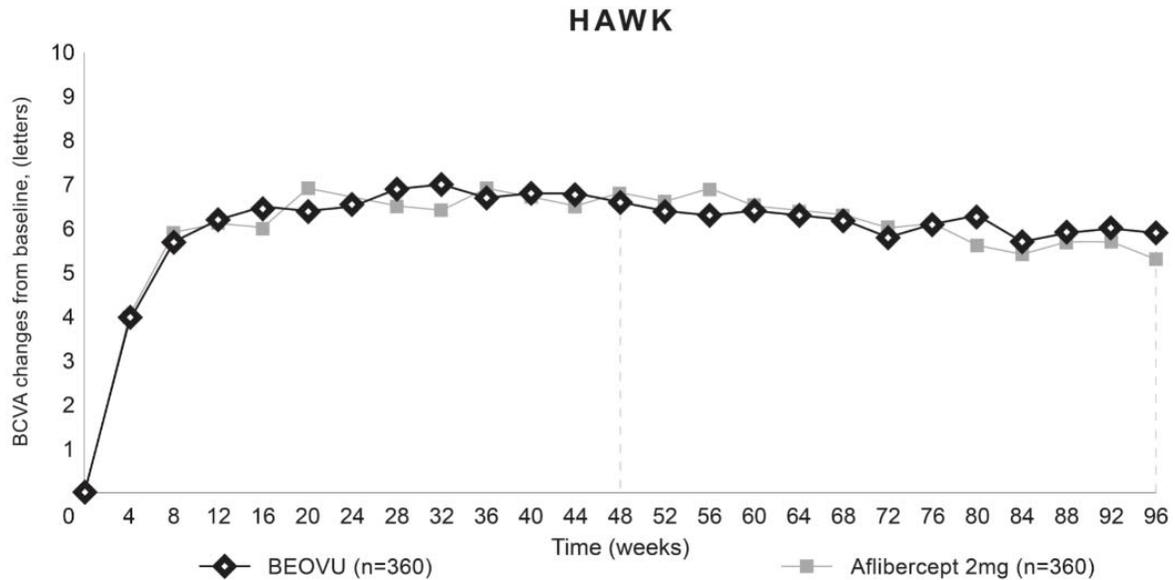
Both studies demonstrated efficacy in the primary endpoint defined as the change from baseline in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) at Week 48, measured by the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) Letter Score. In both studies, BEOVU treated patients had a similar mean change from baseline in BCVA as the patients treated with aflibercept 2 mg (fixed every 8 weeks). Detailed results of both studies are shown in Table 2 and Figures 5 and 6 below.

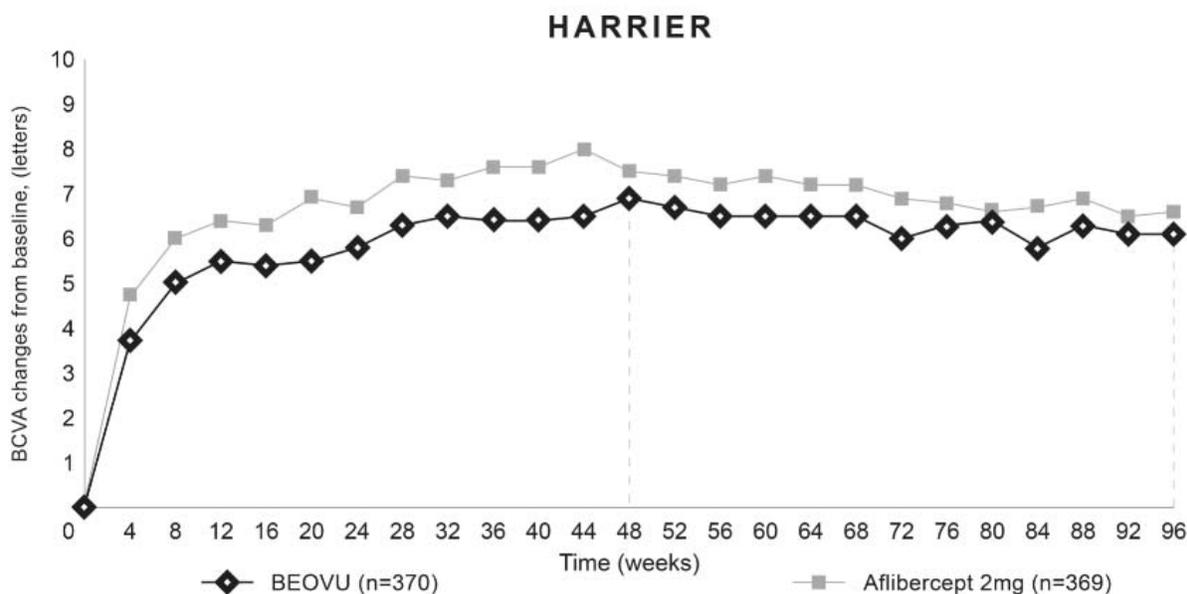
**Table 2: Efficacy Outcomes at Week 48 and 96 in Phase 3 HAWK and HARRIER Studies**

Efficacy outcome	At week	HAWK			HARRIER		
		BEOVU (n = 360)	Aflibercept 2 mg (n = 360)	Difference (95% CI) brolocizumab – aflibercept	BEOVU (n = 370)	Aflibercept 2 mg (n = 369)	Difference (95% CI) brolocizumab – aflibercept
Mean (SD) BCVA at Baseline		60.8 (13.7)	60.0 (13.9)		61.5 (12.6)	60.8 (12.9)	
Mean (SE) change from baseline in BCVA (measured by ETDRS letters score)	48	6.6 (0.71)	6.8 (0.71)	-0.2 (-2.1, 1.8)	6.9 (0.61)	7.6 (0.61)	-0.7 (-2.4, 1.0)
	96	5.9 (0.78)	5.3 (0.78)	+0.5 (-1.6, 2.7)	6.1 (0.73)	6.6 (0.73)	-0.4 (-2.5, 1.6)
Proportion of patients who gained visual acuity (%) (≥ 15 letters of BCVA)	48	33.6	25.4	8.2 (2.2, 15.0)	29.3	29.9	-0.6 (-7.1, 5.8)
	96	34.2	27	7.2 (1.4, 13.8)	29.1	31.5	-2.4 (-8.8, 4.1)
Proportion of patients who lost visual acuity (%) (≥ 15 letters of BCVA)	48	6.4	5.5	0.9 (-2.7, 4.3)	3.8	4.8	-1.0 (-3.9, 2.2)
	96	8.1	7.4	0.7 (-3.6, 4.6)	7.1	7.5	-0.4 (-3.8, 3.3)

Abbreviations - BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity; missing data are imputed using last observation carried forward (LOCF) method, ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study, SE: standard error.

**Figure 5: Mean Change in Visual Acuity From Baseline to Week 96 in HAWK**



**Figure 6: Mean Change in Visual Acuity From Baseline to Week 96 in HARRIER**

Through Week 48, 56% (HAWK) and 51% (HARRIER) of patients remained on BEOVU every 12 weeks. The proportion of patients who were maintained on every 12 week dosing through Week 96 was 45% and 39% in HAWK and HARRIER, respectively. The probability of remaining on every 12 week dosing from Week 20 to Week 48 was 85% and 82%, and from Week 48 to Week 96 was 82% and 75% in HAWK and HARRIER, respectively.

Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity) in each study were generally consistent with the results in the overall populations.

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

### 16.1 How Supplied

BEOVU (brolucizumab-dbl) injection is supplied as a clear to slightly opalescent and colorless to slightly brownish-yellow solution in a single-dose vial. Each BEOVU carton (NDC 0078-0827-61) contains one BEOVU vial and one sterile 5 µm blunt filter needle (18-gauge x 1½ inch, 1.2 mm x 40 mm).

### 16.2 Storage and Handling

Refrigerate BEOVU between 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). Do not freeze. Store the vial in the outer carton to protect from light.

Prior to use, the unopened glass vial of BEOVU may be kept at room temperature, 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F) for up to 24 hours.

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise patients that in the days following BEOVU administration, patients are at risk of developing endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion. If the eye becomes red, sensitive to light, painful, or if a patient develops any change in vision, instruct the patient to seek immediate care from an ophthalmologist [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1, 5.2)].

Patients may experience temporary visual disturbances after an intravitreal injection with BEOVU and the associated eye examination [see *Adverse Reactions* (6.1)]. Advise patients not to drive or use machinery until visual function has recovered sufficiently.

Manufactured by:

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

East Hanover, New Jersey 07936

U.S. License Number: 1244

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**CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND  
RESEARCH**

*APPLICATION NUMBER:*

**761125Orig1s004**

**OTHER REVIEW(S)**

Clinical and Labeling Review of BLA 761125/S-004  
Prior Approval Supplement

<b>Product Title</b>	<b>BEOVU® (brolucizumab-dbll) injection, for intravitreal use</b>
Applicant	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Application/Supplement Number	BLA 761125/S-004
SDN Number	249 262
Type of Submission	Supplement
Approved Indication	Treatment of Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
Date FDA Received	May 11, 2020
PDUFA Goal Date	November 11, 2020
Review Date	June 5, 2020
Reviewer	Derek Alberding, PharmD Rhea Lloyd, MD William M. Boyd, MD

**Submitted:**

This Prior Approval labeling supplement proposes updates to the Prescribing Information to address an emerging new safety issue of retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion associated with BEOVU treatment in patients with neovascular AMD. The following changes were proposed:

- HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION – Updated to include Recent Major Changes and additional warning text under Warnings and Precautions.
- 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Updated to include proposed warning for “retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion”.
- 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS – Updated to include (b) (4), (b) (4), “retinal vasculitis” and “retinal vascular occlusion”.
- 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION – Revised text for consistency with proposed changes in sections 5 and 6 of the Full Prescribing Information.
- (b) (4)

Clinical and Labeling Review of BLA 761125/S-004  
Prior Approval Supplement

**Clinical Comments:**

Section 5 Warnings and Precautions

Novartis proposed to update the Warnings and Precautions section with the addition of “Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion” to the existing Warning 5.1 Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachment.

On May 28, 2020, the Division recommended via email that “Retinal Vasculitis and/or Retinal Vascular Occlusion” and the associated text be separated into a new Warning 5.2. A cross-reference to Contraindications (4.1) was added to the text under Warning 5.1 Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachments

(b) (4)

(b) (4) The Division recommended adding the terms “retinal vascular occlusion, retinal vasculitis” under Intraocular inflammation (b) in Table 1: Common Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ ) in the HAWK and HARRIER wet AMD Clinical Trials.

**Labeling Comments:**

Labeling recommendations on the content and format of the prescribing information (PI) were included in the May 28, 2020, email to help ensure that the PI:

- Is compliant with Physician Labeling Rule (PLR) and Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule (PLLR) requirements
- Is consistent with labeling guidance recommendations and with CDER/OND best labeling practices and policies
- Conveys the essential scientific information needed for safe and effective use of the product
- Is clinically meaningful and scientifically accurate
- Is a useful communication tool for health care providers
- Is consistent with other PI with the same active moiety, drug class, or similar indication

Clinical and Labeling Review of BLA 761125/S-004  
Prior Approval Supplement

Following, is the Track Changes version of the revised labeling submitted on June 3, 2020, to address the Division's May 28, 2020 recommendations. The May 28, 2020, FDA recommendations and rationale, and the June 3, 2020, Novartis comments are presented in comment bubbles.

On June 5, 2020, Novartis agreed via email to include the additional **highlighted** revisions in final labeling.

**Recommendations:**

This Prior Approval labeling supplement is recommended for approval with minor **highlighted** revisions to which the company agrees.

Derek Alberding, PharmD  
Regulatory Health Project Manager  
Division of Ophthalmology

Rhea Lloyd, MD  
Medical Officer  
Division of Ophthalmology

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Clinical Team Leader  
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11 Page(s) of Draft Labeling have been Withheld in Full as b4 (CCI/TS) immediately following this page

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**This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically. Following this are manifestations of any and all electronic signatures for this electronic record.**  
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/s/  
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DEREK S ALBERDING  
06/08/2020 10:24:55 AM

RHEA A LLOYD  
06/08/2020 11:58:14 AM

WILLIAM M BOYD  
06/08/2020 12:04:18 PM