



## **KEY WORDS**

- ✓ Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- ✓ Bevacizumab
- ✓ B cell subgroups
- ✓ Monocyte subgroups
- ✓ Neutrophil subgroups

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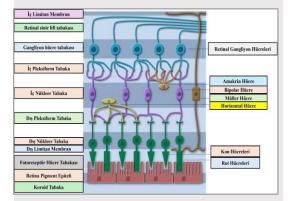
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# THE EFFECTS OF BEVACIZUMAB TREATMENT ON THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IN AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

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## THESIS ABSTRACT

The inflammatory environment in wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) causes damage to the RPE and photoreceptor cells. The inability of the immune system to regulate inflammation and the decreased ability to maintain tissue homeostasis with the aging process may sensitize patients with wet AMD to prolonged antigen exposure in the retina.

Three doses of Bevacizumab in the treatment of AMD mediated the regulation of inflammatory responses by directing pro-inflammatory T cells, which were high prior to treatment, to exhaustion. Together with these data, it appears that there is a state of inflammation in AMD patients and that Bevacizumab treatment improves these inflammatory processes.

## **APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS**

Comparison of immune system cells in patients with age-related macular degeneration before and after Bevacizumab treatment

# **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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