### ONLINE ONLY SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**Supplementary Table 1. NEI-VFQ-25, driving subscale questions[24]**

| Question                                                                 | Response options                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| **15a. Are you currently driving, at least once in a while?**             | Yes                                          |
| **15b. IF NO:** Have you never driven a car, or have you given up driving? | Never drove                                   |
|                                                                          | Gave up                                       |
| **Driving Subscale questions**                                           |                                              |
| **15c. IF CURRENTLY DRIVING: How much difficulty do you have driving during the daytime in familiar places?** | No difficulty at all                         |
|                                                                          | A little difficulty                           |
|                                                                          | Moderate difficulty                           |
|                                                                          | Extreme difficulty                            |
| **16. How much difficulty do you have driving at night?**                | No difficulty at all                         |
|                                                                          | A little difficulty                           |
| **16a. How much difficulty do you have driving in difficult conditions, such as in bad weather, during rush hour, on the freeway, or in city traffic?** | No difficulty at all |
|                                                                          | Moderate difficulty                           |
|                                                                          | Extreme difficulty                            |
|                                                                          | Have you stopped doing this because of your eyesight? |
|                                                                          | Have you stopped doing this for other reasons, or are you not interested in doing this? |

NEI-VFQ-25, National Eye Institute Visual Functioning Questionnaire-25.
**Supplementary Table 2. Baseline patient demographics and disease characteristics**

| Quartile 1 (0–25) | Quartile 2 (>25–50) | Quartile 3 (>50–75) | Quartile 4 (>75–100) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                   | Sham (n=5)          | Sham (n=7)          | Sham (n=14)         | Sham (n=19)         |
| Mean (SD) age, years<sup>a</sup> | 58.21 (7.2) | 60.86 (10.3) | 59.86 (8.4) | 70.01 (12.1)  |
| Male, n (%)<sup>a</sup> | 3 (60.0) | 1 (14.3) | 9 (63.4) | 3 (50.0) |
| Diabetes type, %<sup>a</sup> | 0 (0) | 1 (11.1) | 2 (18.2) | 0 (0) |
| Type 1 | 5 (100.0) | 8 (88.9) | 9 (81.8) | 6 (100.0) |
| Type 2 | 0 (0) | 5 (83.3) | 4 (57.1) | 3 (46.7) |
| Mean (SD) HbA1c<sup>a</sup> | 7.35 (0.87) | 8.1 (2.06) | 7.21 (0.87) | 7.61 (0.85) |
| Mean (SD) BCVA at baseline (ETDRS letters) | 52.2 (9.42) | 58.4 (5.05) | 60.2 (7.77) | 59.5 (7.86) |
| Mean (SD) time since DME diagnosis, years<sup>a</sup> | 4.6 (3.3) | 3.1 (1.6) | 3.9 (2.5) | 4.7 (3.7) |
| Mean (SD) DSS score<sup>b</sup> | 13.9 (12.7)<sup>a</sup> | 15.3 (12.3)<sup>b</sup> | 43.9 (7.5)<sup>i</sup> | 44.4 (4.8)<sup>i</sup> |

<sup>a</sup>All subjects whose baseline DSS score fell within the quartile, n numbers are shown in table; <sup>b</sup>All subjects whose baseline DSS score fell within the quartile and who had ≥1 follow-up assessment: <sup>c</sup>n=3; <sup>d</sup>n=6; <sup>e</sup>n=11; <sup>f</sup>n=13; <sup>g</sup>n=17; <sup>h</sup>n=3; <sup>i</sup>n=1.

DME, diabetic macular oedema; DSS, driving subscale; ETDRS, early treatment diabetic retinopathy study; FAc, fluocinolone acetonide; HbA1, haemoglobin alpha 1; NEI-VFQ-25, National Eye Institute Visual Functioning Questionnaire-25; SD, standard deviation.