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Dr Magdy Moussa (L), Dr Hany Hamza, saying MDE is a common complication of diabetes ,leading to vision loss during a press conference held in Cairo recently.

### New drug for diabetic vision impairment

**EGYPT** has joined 30 other countries which have approved a new drug to treat diabetic retinopathy in patients with diabetic macular oedema (DME).

The new treatment was authorised for DME treatment by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in August 2014.

The new drug was revealed during a press conference held in Cairo recently.

According to Dr Hany Hamza, Professor of Ophthalmology at Cairo University, said that with nearly 21 million people worldwide suffering from DME, phase 3 of VIVID-DME and VISTA-DME , clinical trials have revealed that the new drug offers diabetics suffering from impaired vision a new treatment option. It allows them to proactively manage disease progression and achieve sustained improvement.

"DME is a common complication of diabetes, causing damage to the retina, which

may lead to poor vision and vision loss," said Dr Hamza. "Visual impairment resulting from DME affects nearly three per cent of diabetics worldwide, making DME a leading cause of vision loss in working-age adults. "In Egypt, DME is a serious challenge; it affects nearly 30 per cent of a total of 7.5 million people living with diabetes in the country. DME occurs when blood vessels in the retina are damaged by chronic high blood sugar levels caused by diabetes. This in turn can cause severe vision loss or blindness."

Dr Magdy Moussa, Professor of Ophthalmology at Tanta University, focused on the results of Phase 3 of VIVID-DME and VISTA-DME clinical trials. He said "after one year of regular therapy, patients treated with aflibercept showed significant improvements gaining, on average, the ability to read approximately two additional lines on an eye chart.