Reviewer's report

Title: Pregabalin versus gabapentin in the management of peripheral neuropathic pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia and diabetic neuropathy: A cost effectiveness analysis for the Greek healthcare setting

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Reviewer: Cory Toth

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Petrakis et al

The authors analyzed for QALY gain with use of pregabalin as compared to gabapentin in Greece.

The purpose of their study was to examine the cost–effectiveness of pregabalin versus gabapentin in the management of patients with DPN or PHN.

Doses of pregabalin were 150 – 600 mg (average maintenance dose of 457mg) compared against gabapentin dose averaging 2,400mg daily (900 – 3,600mg), so appropriate dosing was compared.

The manuscript is well written. It is made clear that a model is being used to derive results.

Minor Concerns

The model used was rather simple and based upon physician surveys. It is not clearly stated in the Discussion that there are certainly limitations of such a simplistic approach. Many comparable studies would use actual health care utilization for comparisons.

Posttreatment pain score mean values were 4.1 for pregabalin and 4.8 for gabapentin – was this a significant difference? What about the reduction in days with moderate to severe pain?

It is not stated in the Results if the QALY gain was significant either.

There should be some discussion by the authors regarding what is an efficient QALY gain. Is 20,000 euros acceptable? This is controversial and depends upon many complex considerations and is variable between counties, but $40,000
USD for 1 QALY is considerable. More discussion about the relevance is required.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests