Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of the safety of pegaptanib sodium in the treatment of age-related macular degeneration in subjects with or without diabetes mellitus: A retrospective, pooled data analysis

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Reviewer: Jonathan Micieli

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This manuscript addresses an important question in the treatment of AMD, whether diabetes is a risk factor for adverse events during treatment with pegaptanib sodium.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. This study lacks a necessary statistical analysis of the data. The authors present the raw data and the rates of various events as percentages, but we do not know how the data/percentages were compared. How do they come to the conclusion that there are no differences in adverse events between diabetics and non-diabetics? What is the relative risk of being diabetic for systemic or ocular events? With how much confidence can they say that there is no risk?

2. The authors need to do a better job of describing the baseline characteristics of the diabetic and non-diabetic population. How much greater were the proportion of diabetics with vascular system disorders? What was the mean duration of diabetes? Could it be that the subjects were newly diagnosed diabetics and that is why no difference in adverse events were found? Statistics need to be used to better quantify this, for ex, what was the variance in the number of previous injections?

3. Where can the audience find the original data used to do this study? Has it been published? It is not referenced. Is it available through Pfizer on an online database? This needs to be better clarified in the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests