Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy and safety of treatments for macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 4 July 2013

Reviewer: Q Mohamed

Reviewer's report:

No Major revisions

Minor Revisions

Please clarify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for RCTs selected for this review. I note that Table 1 only specifies Ranibizumab, Bevacizumab, Dexamethasone IVT, and Laser Photocoagulation. Does that mean all other treatment modalities were excluded?

If this is the case it needs to be clarified in the title, abstract and the main methods section, and potential limitations of the review mentioned in the discussion.

The systematic search was performed on 18th Nov 2010 - this date should be included in the main abstract so readers are aware that the review may not be up to date and would not cover or include the many RCTs published in the last 55 months. It may be worth mentioning this as a potential limitation in the discussion.

Discretionary revisions

I note that the Ranibizumab studies (BRAVO/Cruise) are described as "high-quality" in the text but similar mention of level of quality is not present for the Dex IV study GENEVA. I note the quality scores were fairly equal - 6/8 for Lucentis studies and 7/8 for GENEVA. To avoid bias can you call both studies high quality or exclude this comment.

I feel the review would be incomplete without at least a mention of the large Aflibercept RCTs (GALILEO and COPERNICUS) which is currently undergoing NICE review, especially as other papers published after the systematic review date which are non RCTs e.g. HORIZON are quoted in the discussion.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

I have received speaker fees, travel reimbursement and acted as paid advisor for Novartis, Bayer and Allergan. I have been/ or I am currently an investigator in studies using Bevacizumab, Ranibizumab, Aflibercept and Ozurdex.