Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment of Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion induced Macular Edema with Bevacizumab

Version: 1 Date: 19 April 2008

Reviewer: Daniel Kook

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Review: M Abbeg Treatment of BRVO induced Macular Edema with Bevacizumab

I find this paper interesting and easy to follow. However, the manuscript needs some minor and major revisions for strengthening and improving the message of the study.

The following are my comments in particular:

1. In general, the manuscript should be read by a native speaker to avoid grammatical and comma mistakes.

2. Based on the findings of the study and according to published literature the conclusions in the abstract should better read as: We present evidence that intravitreal bevacizumab is an effective and long lasting...

3. Branch retinal vein occlusion should be abbreviated as “BRVO” and central retinal thickness as “CRT” in order to simplify the text throughout the manuscript and figure legends, consistently.

4. In the background section, “retinal vein occlusion” and “branch vein occlusion” should be substituted by “BRVO” as described above.

5. In the subjects and methods section you describe, that fluorescein angiography was performed. Did you measure the diameter of BRVO and degree of ischemia and did you repeat angiography after intravitreal bevacizumab injection? If yes, did you notice any changes?

6. Page 3, subjects and methods section, third paragraph should read: “Bevacizumab (1.25 mg) was injected intravitreally via pars plana under …”

7. On page 4, subjects and methods section, within first paragraph different tenses (past and present: “are expressed” and “was used”) should be changed, tense should be consistent throughout the text.

8. In the results section, first paragraph: median or mean was 211 days?

9. In the results section, second paragraph: “Contrary to our expectations…” should be part of the discussion, not of the results section.

10. Page 4, last line: “Repeated injections were performed if…..” is the result of a retrospective analysis. Ok. But how did you plan re-injections in advance? Any
comment in the subjects and methods section?

11. Page 5, line 4: How do you define the “steady state”? You may describe this in your manuscript.

12. Page 5, line 10 should read as “Bevacizumab leads to a rapid…” and not “lead”.

13. Page 5, line 12 should better read “OCT showed increased CRT at…” rather than “Retinal thickness showed…retinal thickness…”

14. Regarding the discussion section, the discussion should also include results of study by Campochiaro PA et al. in Mol Ther 2008 16 (4): 791-9 demonstrating the effect of ranibizumab on retinal vein occlusion.

15. Discussion section, second paragraph, first sentence should read “The data suggest, that in our patient collective, rapid beneficial…” with regard to the relatively small sample size and the various pre-treatments.


17. Figure legend 1 and Figure 1: A should be replaced by INJ for injection for a better understanding. VA does not improve over time. Better change “VA” to “LogMar VA” - I guess. Figure legend should be changed, accordingly.

18. Figure legend 2: How did you determine age of BRVO? Any comment in the subjects and methods section? Figure 2 includes 4 Figures. Please name them e.g. a-d and change figure legend, accordingly. Figure 2 b, right on top looks like “Mikado”. You may change the style of the diagram – e.g. into scatterplot diagram.

19. Fig. 2 displays 4-6 weeks results. What about 3 and 6 months results with respect to the follow up (27-360 days)? To strengthen your conclusion - “long lasting treatment”- results of a longer follow up would be of interest.

20. Fig. 3, right diagram does not imply the 9 months results or the diagram may be cut off on the right side with the conversion into pdf file format.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.