Author's response to reviews

Title: Two or more dexamethasone intravitreal implants as monotherapy or in combination therapy for macular edema in retinal vein occlusion: subgroup analysis of a retrospective chart review study

Authors:

Michael A Singer (msinger11@mac.com)
Antonio Capone Jr (acaponejr@yahoo.com)
Pravin U Dugel (pdugel@gmail.com)
Richard F Dreyer (rdreyer@msn.com)
David G Dodwell (daviddodwell@comcast.net)
Daniel B Roth (rothretina@gmail.com)
Rui Shi (Shi_Rui@Allergan.com)
John G Walt (Walt_John@Allergan.com)
Lanita C Scott (Scott_Lanita@Allergan.com)
David A Hollander (Hollander_David@Allergan.com)

Version: 2
Date: 28 February 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Responses to comments

Editorial comment:

*Please revise the methods section of your manuscript to provide the names of the ethics committee that approved your study.*

We have added the names of the Institutional Review Boards that approved the study in Methods (pg 6, lines 129-131).

Reviewer comments:

1. *The p-values in statistical significance were usually p<0.05, p<0.01, or so on, and P ≠ 0.026 or P ≠ 0.028 would be confusing for readers.*

   We reported the exact values of $P$ values greater than $P<0.001$ (for example, $P=0.026$ and $P=0.028$) to follow AMA recommendations and be consistent with other manuscripts published in *BMC Ophthalmology* (see for example, McElnea et al. *BMC Ophthalmology* 2014, 14:153).

2. *In Figure 3, authors presented the patients’ percentage of VA improvements, and clinicians would like to know the percentage of VA worsening as well.*

   In response to this comment, we analyzed the percentage of patients with at least 2 lines and at least 3 lines of worsening in BCVA from baseline after each injection, and we added a new figure (Figure 4) showing the results (pg 11, lines 244-245).

3. *The conclusion contained the statements regarding IOP increase after DEX treatment, which should be supported by the data at individual numbers of DEX injection.*

   In response to this comment, we added a new figure (Figure 5) showing the occurrence of initial IOP increases by injection number. The data in this figure are complementary to the verbal description of the results given in the Results section (pg 12, lines 257-263). The results show that initial IOP increases occurred after both DEX implant injections and anti-VEGF injections, and after the first and subsequent injections, supporting the statement about IOP increases in the Conclusion, “When combining treatments for RVO-associated ME, physicians should consider the possibility of IOP increases related to the total number and frequency of intravitreal injections.”