Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost-effectiveness of different treat-to-target strategies in rheumatoid arthritis: results from the DREAM registry

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Valerie Nell-Duxneuner

Reviewer’s report:

Re: van de Laar C et. al. Cost effectiveness of different treat-to-target strategies in rheumatoid arthritis: results from the DREAM registry.

In this manuscript the cost-effectiveness of two different treat-to-target strategies in rheumatoid arthritis are compared; i.e. an initial combination therapy versus a step-up therapy. The calculations in this study are based on a real-world registry in the Netherlands (the DREAM registry).

The manuscript is well written and the results are of importance in the view of the high direct costs of anti-rheumatic drugs. The calculations were performed using a Markov model and seem thus reliable.

Some points should be taken into consideration:

- In the "Material and Methods" section, the registries on which the calculation are based are mentioned, but no details on the status quo of the registries at the time of calculation are given (number of patients, therapies given etc.) for the two cohorts. This information should be added, preferably in a Table.

- The economic calculations are based on the situation in the Netherlands. To what extent are the results generalizable to an at least European general population? This should be added in the "Discussion" section.

- Where other bDMARDs other than TNF-blockers considered in the calculations. Are there any differences between TNF-blockers?

- The last sentence in the "Discussion" section does not make sense. The sentence should probably end like this "…. Compared with step-up therapy, but also lower costs"

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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