Ranibizumab vs. pegaptanib: a cost-effectiveness study?

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Dear Editor,

I read the recent publication on a cost-effectiveness evaluation in a Spanish scenario by Hernández-Pastor et al. with great interest [1]. Hernández-Pastor et al. concluded that “When administered on an as-needed basis, ranibizumab was a cost-effective strategy compared to pegaptanib in this population [1].” Indeed, this piece of work seems to be a cost-utility analysis rather than a cost-effectiveness analysis. The authors performed a rather good comparative evaluation between cost and outcome of using ranibizumab versus pegaptanib. However, there are some points to be concerned. First, although the identified costs in this work cover both medical and non-medical-related costs, it seems that not all indirect costs are completely included. Second, Hernández-Pastor et al. has just reported another publication in Clin Ter, a comparative evaluation between cost and outcome of using ranibizumab versus photodynamic therapy. The identified costs and outcomes in the present work [1] and

the past work [2] are not the same, but are largely different. Since the two publications were very similar and the data are from the same year (2007 and 2008), the results from ranibizumab alternative should be the same or similar (due to the little change in background economics). This is the point to be clarified for both reliability and possible cross sharing of the data.

References

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2. Hernández-Pastor LJ, Ortega A, García-Layana A, Giráldez J (2008) Cost-effectiveness of ranibizumab compared with photodynamic treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration. *Clin Ther* 30(12):2436–2451

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