Effective Health Care

Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration Treatment Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- There is insufficient research on treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration for a full systematic review. However, ongoing research or activities are underway; therefore, this topic will be revisited in the future when more data becomes available.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions the comparative effectiveness of newer treatments for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Staff-Generated PICO
Population(s): Elderly patients with age-related macular degeneration
Intervention(s): Anti-vascular endothelial growth factors (anti-VEGF) (Macugen, Lucentis, or Avastin)
Comparator(s): Comparison between different anti-VEGF agents alone or in combination with other treatments (steroids, interferon, VEGF Trap, photodynamic therapy)
Outcome(s): Prevention of vision loss, vision recovery, quality of life, cardiovascular side effects

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.)

- Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of severe, irreversible vision impairment in developed countries. Based on the recent practice parameter from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, it appears that many of the clinical questions that are most timely to providers right now deal with the comparative effectiveness of the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors

(Macugen (pegaptanib sodium), Lucentis (ranibizumab), and Avastin (bevacizumab)). A literature scan on this topic identified very few trials that addressed the comparative effectiveness of these treatments.

- Multiple ongoing clinical trials were identified on this subject. Because of the current lack of comparative effectiveness literature on this subject and the multiple ongoing studies, this topic will be revisited in the future when more data is available.