A systematic review and economic evaluation of adalimumab and dexamethasone for treating non-infectious intermediate uveitis, posterior uveitis or panuveitis in adults

Hazel Squires,1* Edith Poku,1 Inigo Bermejo,1 Katy Cooper,1 John Stevens,1 Jean Hamilton,1 Ruth Wong,1 Alastair Denniston,2 Ian Pearce3 and Fahd Quhill4

1School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
2University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham, UK
3St Paul’s Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool, UK
4Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield, UK

*Corresponding author h.squires@sheffield.ac.uk

Declared competing interests of authors: Fahd Quhill has received personal fees from Allergan for participation in medical education and training, and has participated in advisory boards given his clinical expertise in the role of steroids in diabetic macular oedema. He has also received support from Allergan to attend international conferences.

Published November 2017
DOI: 10.3310/hta21680

Plain English summary

Treating adults with non-infectious intermediate, posterior or panuveitis

Health Technology Assessment 2017; Vol. 21: No. 68
DOI: 10.3310/hta21680

NIHR Journals Library www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk
Plain English summary

Non-infectious intermediate uveitis, posterior uveitis and panuveitis are a group of conditions causing inflammation in the eye, which if untreated may lead to sight loss. Treatment may include injections or implants into the eye or medicines taken by mouth or via injection.

This assessment evaluated whether adalimumab (as an injection under the skin) (Humira®; AbbieVie Ltd, Maidenhead, UK) or dexamethasone (as an implant in the eye) (Ozurdex®; Allergan Ltd, Marlow, UK) improved patients' eye inflammation, vision and quality of life. We also examined the harmful effects of treatment as well as the associated costs. Data were combined from published sources in an economic model to estimate the cost-effectiveness of adalimumab and dexamethasone compared with current treatment.

Evidence from three studies showed that adalimumab and dexamethasone were each better than placebo at improving eye inflammation, vision and quality of life. In terms of safety, adalimumab resulted in more generalised effects such as infections and injection site reactions. The dexamethasone implant resulted in more eye-related complications such as raised pressure in the eye and cataracts.

For dexamethasone, the additional cost for each additional year of life in full health (cost per quality-adjusted life-year gained) was estimated as £19,509 compared with current practice. The equivalent figure for adalimumab was estimated to be > £90,000, which is higher than the values reported by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence as thresholds for a treatment to be considered cost-effective. There is substantial uncertainty around the evidence, in particular with regard to the impact of the interventions on patient blindness and differences between trial evidence and clinical practice.
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This report

The research reported in this issue of the journal was commissioned and funded by the HTA programme on behalf of NICE as project number 15/64/07. The protocol was agreed in June 2016. The assessment report began editorial review in December 2016 and was accepted for publication in May 2017. The authors have been wholly responsible for all data collection, analysis and interpretation, and for writing up their work. The HTA editors and publisher have tried to ensure the accuracy of the authors’ report and would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments on the draft document. However, they do not accept liability for damages or losses arising from material published in this report.

This report presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The views and opinions expressed by authors in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NHS, the NIHR, NETSCC, the HTA programme or the Department of Health. If there are verbatim quotations included in this publication the views and opinions expressed by the interviewees are those of the interviewees and do not necessarily reflect those of the authors, those of the NHS, the NIHR, NETSCC, the HTA programme or the Department of Health.

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