

**Table S1**

**Search strategy on PubMed**

#1 Search (((macular edema) AND intravitreal dexamethasone implant) AND anti-VEGF) AND diabetes

#2 Search (((macular edema) AND diabetes) AND dexamethasone) AND anti-VEGF

#3 Search (((macular edema) AND diabetes) AND anti-VEGF) AND Ozurdex

**Table S2** GRADE of the evidence

Quality assessment							No of patients		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	OUTCOME	Control		
<b>Mean BCVA at 6 months (follow-up mean 6 months; measured with: ETDRS; Better indicated by lower values)</b>										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	82	75	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL
<b>Mean change in BCVA at 6 months and 12 months - at 6 months (follow-up mean 6 months; measured with: ETDRS; Better indicated by lower values)</b>										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	82	75	⊕000 VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Mean change in BCVA at 6 months and 12 months - at 12 months (follow-up 12 months; measured with: ETDRS; Better indicated by lower values)										
2	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision <sup>2</sup>	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	227	224	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Mean CST at 6 months (follow-up 6 months; measured with: OCT; Better indicated by lower values)										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	serious <sup>4</sup>	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	82	75	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Mean change in CST at 6 months and 12 months - at 6 months (follow-up 6 months; measured with: OCT; Better indicated by lower values)										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious <sup>2</sup>	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	82	75	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Mean change in CST at 6 months and 12 months - at 12 months (follow-up 12 months; measured with: OCT; Better indicated by lower values)										
2	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	serious <sup>4</sup>	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	209	208	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Total serious adverse events (follow-up 12 months)										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	47/218 (21.6%)	55/224 (24.6%)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT
								30.4%		
Elevation of IOP (follow-up 12 months)										
4	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	101/264 (38.3%)	20/257 (7.8%)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT
								3.3%		
Adverse events: Cataract (follow-up 12 months)										
3	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	reporting bias <sup>3</sup>	44/254 (17.3%)	15/247 (6.1%)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT
								7.1%		

<sup>1</sup> In one of the studies, the outcome assessors were not blinded for any outcomes

<sup>2</sup> Precision would be rated down by one level due to the small sample size ( $n < 400$ )

<sup>3</sup> Study size (small studies) or industry sponsorship or other conflicts of interest

<sup>4</sup> Consider the forest plot with included studies where the confidence intervals do not overlap. The p value for heterogeneity is less than 0.05, and  $I^2$  is more than 50%.