**Supplementary Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of eyes starting treatment with VEGF inhibitors and dexamethasone.

|                          | VEGF inhibitors group | Dexamethasone group |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Eyes, n                  | 1406                  | 267                 |
| Patients, n              | 973                   | 204                 |
| Female, n (%)            | 368 (38)              | 75 (37)             |
| Right Eye, n (%)         | 707 (50)              | 133 (50)            |
| Pseudophakics, n (%)     | 251 (18)              | 75 (28)             |
| Age years, mean (SD)     | 64 (13)               | 68 (11)             |
| Diabetes duration years, mean (SD) | 17 (10)    | 17 (10)             |
| Diabetes type, %         |                       |                     |
| Type 1                   | 13                    | 4                   |
| Type 2                   | 87                    | 96                  |
| Diabetic retinopathy, %  |                       |                     |
| Mild                     | 21                    | 27                  |
| Moderate                 | 39                    | 34                  |
| Severe NPDR              | 22                    | 13                  |
| PDR Non-High risk        | 12                    | 17                  |
| PDR High risk            | 6                     | 10                  |
| Baseline VA letters, mean (SD) | 64.1 (18.5) | 55.3 (20.8)        |
| VA ≥ 69 letters, %       | 56                    | 31                  |
| VA ≤ 35 letters, %       | 9                     | 20                  |
| CST µm, mean (SD)        | 398 (123)             | 456 (127)           |
| IOP mmHg, mean (SD)      | 15 (4)                | 15 (4)              |
| CSME grades, %           |                       |                     |
| Centre-involving         | 80                    | 91                  |
| Non-centre involving     | 11                    | 6                   |
| No CSME                  | 9                     | 3                   |

n - Number, SD – Standard Deviation, NPDR – Non-Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy, PDR – Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy, VA – Visual Acuity, CST – Central Subfield Thickness, IOP – Intraocular pressure, CSME – Clinically Significant Macular Edema, VEGF – Vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors