Reviewer’s report

Title: The direction of research into visual disability and quality of life in glaucoma.

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2011

Reviewer: Roberta McKean-Cowdin

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written paper with aims that are clearly specified.

There are a few comments for consideration.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The authors clearly describe the methods used to identify the literature for inclusion in the review but never list the relevant literature. This could be in an appendix, but the completeness or scope of the papers included can’t be evaluated by the reader. For example on page 12, the authors state "In addition, 11 studies included a novel questionnaire..." but the manuscripts are not referenced. 51 papers may be too many to list in a table in the paper, but there should be an appendix and when select summary characteristics are given about sub-groups those papers should be referenced. An appendix could easily be incorporated with the paper.

Discretionary Revisions

On page 10, the authors describe the frequency of QOL papers in the last 10 years by disease. Papers on Glaucoma QOL are quite low as described. However, in 2009 the frequency of glaucoma QOL publication was more similar (1.2%) to other phenotypes, suggesting that the focus on this topic has increased. The time window has an important impact on the conclusion, so that it may be important to discuss that in more recent years the focus on this area of research has increased. If this was only a pattern in 1 year, then that should be noted.

On page 11, the authors discuss that glaucoma patients are often unaware of the extent of their visual loss and their symptoms are less noticeable compared to other conditions. I agree that this is true, however the QOL literature suggests that glaucoma patients perceive an impact relatively early in their disease as measured by visual field loss.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have grants that include data on glaucoma and quality of life.