Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of dry eye syndrome on vision-related quality of life in a non-clinic-based general population

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Author's response to reviews:

Prof. Jigisha Patel & Stephanie Harriman,
Editor-in-chief,
BMC Ophthalmology

Mar. 19th, 2012
Dear Prof: Patel & Harriman

We are submitting the manuscript entitled “Impact of dry eye syndrome on vision-related quality of life in a non-clinic-based general population” for consideration as a publication in BMC Ophthalmology.

Dry eye syndrome (DES) has been a growing public health problem. The medical treatment and clinical studies on DES have conventionally focused mainly on physician-based outcomes such as improvements in epithelium healing and tear film stability. Recent improved understanding of disease pathogenesis and therapeutic targets has encouraged increased awareness of DES among patients and clinicians, stimulating increased recognition of DES associated impairments in quality of life (QoL). However, the importance of DES on QoL was underestimated to some extent, because only those with relatively severe DES and seeking doctors’ help had been investigated heretofore, whereas few studies focusing on the impact of DES on QoL in a non–clinic-based general population has been reported previously.

In view of this, we performed this population-based study to investigate the vision-related QoL of patients with DES in an inhabitant community of Shanghai, with the application of the National Eye Institute 25-Item Visual Function Questionnaire (VFQ-25), so as to obtain a better understanding on the impact of DES on the QoL in a non-clinical-based population.
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We thank you for considering this paper and look forward to receiving your decision and reviewers’ comments.

Yours sincerely
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