Author's response to reviews

Title: Persistent unsealed internal limiting membrane after Nd:YAG laser treatment for Valsalva retinopathy

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Rodolfo Ballesteros,

Thank you very much for your letter and advice. We were pleased with the favorable reviews that we have received for our manuscript (BMC Ophthalmology 162372012854611) titled “Persistent unsealed internal limiting membrane after Nd:YAG laser treatment for Valsalva retinopathy.” We have carefully considered the reviewers’ comments and made revisions to the manuscript file accordingly (see manuscript). Please find a point-by-point response to each comment below.

This manuscript has been edited and proofread by Edanz. With the help of Edanz, there is a matter of great importance to declare: the case study has previously been presented as a poster in Chinese at the 17th Congress of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society in the “Disclosures section” of the paper. We didn’t deliberately conceal the true situation in original submission because we thought it was an abstract not a full text. We actually made a mistake and now are so regretful for that.

We hope the full disclosure would not affect the outcome. And we hope that revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Meixia Zhang

Sichuan University, China.
We would like to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers for the constructive and positive comments.

Replies to Reviewer 1:

Comment: It is better to use the term “premacular hemorrhage” in Valsalva retinopathy.

Authors’ response: Hemorrhage of Valsalva retinopathy can locate under the hyaloid face and under the internal limiting membrane (ILM). The hemorrhage in this case was under the ILM. So, to make this clearer in our paper we have used both terms: “premacular hemorrhage” (when referring to hemorrhage in the most general sense), and “sub-ILM hemorrhage” (when we are specifically discussing hemorrhage that is in the sub-ILM space).

Comment: Several therapeutic options exist for premacular hemorrhage, including vitrectomy. These have not been mentioned.

Authors’ response: At the 1st visit, the patient was offered a choice of either laser or vitrectomy. Based on the potential risks and costs involved, the patient eventually chose laser. Actually, in China there are very few patients with Valsalva retinopathy who would undergo a pars plana vitrectomy. Although we appreciate that there is a surgical option available, we would consider that most readers will be aware of this and, secondly, the aim of our case report is to report the complications of laser membranotomy not the other procedures. So, although we have now briefly mentioned vitrectomy, we have focused on describing the outcomes of laser treatment.

Comment: Why was the patient observed for one month without intervention? Must be discussed?

Authors’ response: At the first visit, we discussed with the patient, three treatment options to choose from: observation, Nd:YAG laser membranotomy and vitrectomy. Considering the risks and costs of surgery and laser treatment, the patient chose conservative medical treatment and so was observed without any initial treatment—this is now included in the manuscript.
Replies to Reviewer 2:

Comment: There are several misspellings, grammar mistakes which should be corrected.
Abbreviations definitions should be specified
“at macular” should be “at macula” or “at macular region”

Authors’ response: We have corrected the grammar mistakes mentioned above and corrected the language in the entire manuscript.

Comment: There exist more recent papers concerning this issue in current literature which should be mentioned in the manuscript:

Authors’ response: With the help of Dr. Frédéric MATONTI, we obtained the original full text of “Valsalva retinopathy treated by Nd:YAG laser”. This has now been added to our manuscript. (Reference: 3). Unfortunately, we haven’t been able to source either the full text or the abstract of the paper: “Imaging of YAG laser treatment for Valsalva retinopathy”, despite writing a letter to the corresponding author for help. In the absence of the authors reviewing this paper or knowing what the conclusions are we would not feel able to cite it at this stage.