Reviewer's report

Title: Establishment of the mild, moderate and severe dry eye models using three methods in rabbits

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Chuanqing Ding

Reviewer's report:

By removing LG, Harderian, nictitating membrane, and burning of conjunctiva in one eye of the rabbit, the authors successfully established 3 models of DE with varying degrees of clinical manifestations. The manuscript appears well designed and executed, and the conclusions were supported by the data presented. Although there were many publications regarding the establishments of DE models, the multi-factorial nature of DE and its clinical consequences clearly warrant further investigation, and data presented here will significantly increase our understanding regarding the etiology and pathogenesis of DE.

Minor/Discretionary:

1. In most cases within the text, “Significant higher/lower/etc…” should be replaced with “Significantly…”.
2. Methods: anesthesia methods should be moved from 2.2 to 2.1.
3. The texts in figures were not clear, although figures themselves appear ok.
4. References should be double checked to conform to journal style.
5. Table of abbreviations appear unnecessary, unless they’re required by the journal, as these have been abbreviated in the text.
6. Figure 7: no description of what was presented. It would be helpful to include a scale bar in the figure.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests