Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of Localized Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Defects in Highly Myopic, Myopic, and Non-myopic Patients with Normal Tension Glaucoma

Version: 3 Date: 20 August 2013

Reviewer: Jean-Claude Mwanza

Reviewer’s report:

1. The papers still need editorial assistance with regard to language.

2. Abstract, result section: p = .044 instead of p<.044. Also I suggest that the conclusion be rephrased as follows: "Among subjects with NTG, localized RNFL defects are wider and closer to the fovea in eyes with high myopia than those with low to moderate myopia and emmetropia."

3. Method section, paragraph 3. The definition of localized RNFL defects is not clear, confusing. The expression "driving direction of RNFL" is uncommon and even unheard of. The last sentence does not seem to fit.

4. Discussion: please add as limitation #4 the reason why the different groups were not age-matched and how it may have affected the results.

5. Discussion: In relation to the fact that the size of RNFL defect increases with the degree of myopia tends to suggest that this is due to the degree of the RNFL stretching as a result of eye elongation. Then the question becomes: is the defect really glaucoma-related only of the result of the the combined effect of both glaucoma and eye elongation? Comparing the results in the manuscript with those obtained after controlling of the effect of axial length for instance would have provided a definitive answer to whether the stretching plays a role or not. In other words, it is possible that the RNFL defects are comparable in size between subjects with same degree of glaucoma severity, but they are is magnified relative to axial length. Please discuss this thoroughly.

6. The other issues were addressed in a satisfactory manner.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.