Author's response to reviews

Title: Matrix metalloproteinases and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases in the aqueous humour of patients with primary angle closure glaucoma - a quantitative study

Authors:

Angeline DC Nga (angelinenga@yahoo.com)
Yap Soon-Lek (soonlek@hotmail.com)
Amir Samsudin (amir@ummc.edu.my)
Puteri S Abdul-Rahman (terisar@um.edu.my)
Onn H Hashim (onnhashim@um.edu.my)
Zahari Mimiwati (mimiwati@ummc.edu.my)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for the most insightful comments. We have prepared responses to each of them below and hope that the article is now much improved and up to the standards of your esteemed journal. Thank you.

Amir Samsudin (on behalf of all authors)

Editor's Comments:

1) Please confirm that the PACG criteria presented are indeed what the EGS guidelines say. Is it true that they require 3 quadrants where the TM cannot be visualized even with indentation gonioscopy (indicating the presence of PAS)? This is quite a strict standard, and well beyond the Foster classification system.

The guidelines we use locally for PACG (and POAG) diagnosis are based on those suggested by Foster et al:
The reference has now been changed to indicate this.

2) In reading the first paragraph of the discussion, I am still not clear with respect to the mechanism by which an elevated MMP/TIMP ratio would be related the development of glaucoma. A more clear outline of the authors thoughts here would be appreciated.

The consequences of the change in MMP/TIMP ratios are discussed in the 3rd paragraph. However, changes have been made to the Background and Discussion (1st paragraph) sections to clarify the proposed mechanism of aqueous humour outflow obstruction.