Reviewer's report

Title: Pattern of childhood Ocular Morbidity in Rural Eye Hospital, Central Ethiopia

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2013

Reviewer: Daksha Patel

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions would be required.

In the Introduction the author mentions the need for planning in resource limited areas but then does not provide any preamle to the challenges faced in this central region of Ethiopia for the provision of paediatric services. Therefore there is no context provided for the study or its setting.

Methodology - how was the sample size derived? No explanation has been given. Examination protocol is not explained clearly - especially as this is a complex group of patients who are dependant on parental support and have limited communications of their own especially in the under 5 year age group.

Visual acuity definition used is unclear and how were patients with less than 6/60 classified (Blind or severe Visual impairment) It is necessary to use the WHO classification.

If disorders were classed by anatomy - what was done when multiple structures were affected e.g lens and cornea (how was a selection made)

"Fundus examination was done in relevant cases" - what does that mean?

Why was a p value of less than 0.05 selected as significant - the reasoning not explained

Results presented were inconsistent as sometime all patients were included and other times excluded. E.g table 1 excludes (uncooperative patients) and table 2 has all 735 cases included.

It would be valuable to the author to be familiar with the WHO childhood blindness and low vision software, which is a validated tool that would have resolved a number of key decisions required for examination and recording data in childhood eye conditions.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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'