Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of Epiphora on Vision-Related Quality of Life

Authors:

Jae-Ho Shin (opthho@gmail.com)
Yoon-Duck Kim (ydkimoph@skku.edu)
Kyung-In Woo (pbloadsky@naver.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1

1) There are increasing evidence that tear and ocular surface diseases dramatically degrade both the quality of vision and quality of life, further impacting on daily activities. It is one of the reasons why this paper is pertinent. Please better explain that point at the beginning of the discussion, and add references (Denoyer A et al, Ophthalmology 2012; Rieger et al. BJO 1992; Deschamps et al. Am J Ophthalmol 2013; Owsley et al, Vision Res 2010)

--> At the beginning of the discussion, we included more explanation regarding the association between ocular surface diseases and vision-related quality of life. We also included additional references according to your modification.

2) Please better discuss why the authors did not use a dedicated and validated questionnaire of Qol, since it could be an issue for the interpretation of the results. (see and add Vitale et al., Health Qual Life 2004)

--> In the original article, we mentioned the need to simplify the questionnaire. Based on suggestions from the reviewer, we explained this point more clearly. (9-6 – 9-8)

3) Last, it could be valuable to underline that the present results could help to improve the overall therapeutic strategy and surgical management by taking into account the patient-reported degradation in Qol for the medical/surgical indication.

--> We included your felicitous comments in the conclusion. Thank you for your suggestions. (12-14 - 12-17)

Reviewer 2

1. Many causes can affect vision-related quality of life apart from epiphora. The author only mention the inclusion criteria. What about exclusion criteria?
2. The most commonly used questionnaire to assess vision-related quality of life is NEI VFQ-25 or VFQ-39. For ocular disorders, OSDI is a disorder-specific questionnaire. But the authors do not choose these questionnaires. Why? I notice that in the Discussion part, the authors themselves also mentioned two commonly-used questionnaires in dry eye study. But they don't provide the disadvantages of already-existing questionnaire, and the advantages of the questionnaire they used.

3. The authors mentioned that the questionnaire was designed referring to OSDI. There are two concerns. First, this content should be placed in the Methods rather than Discussion. Second, do the authors perform a pilot study to validate the questionnaire and its alteration from OSDI before application? If not, the authors should cite the reference in which the questionnaire had been used and validated.

4. How do the authors perform the measurement of tear meniscus height? Please provide detailed information about it.

5. How to calculate the score for the questionnaire? Average score or total score? The process of calculation should be clarified.

6. The paragraph after statistical analysis in the Methods should be moved to the beginning of Methods part. And the repeated information in this paragraph should be deleted.

7. The gender distribution is uneven in the study. It might cause bias to the result especially the comparison between genders.

8. What's the criterion to define "Increased tear meniscus height" and
"Low-to-normal tear meniscus height?
--> We defined the criteria.

10. The age range is very large in this survey. How do the old participants complete this self-administered questionnaire? Does anyone else give them help? The authors should clarify.
--> We clarify it, as per your suggestion. (6-8 – 6-9)

11. There are many grammatical errors in the manuscript. The authors should perform careful proofreading.
--> The manuscript was reedited by a native English speaker with scientific expertise.

Thank you for your appropriate comments.