Reviewer's report

Title: Tehran Eye Study: research design and eye examination protocol

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Reviewer: Paul Courtright

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

a) Discretionary revisions

1. It would have been helpful if specific justification was given for the selection of 2% for sample size calculation. It is likely that blindness (2%

2. It would be helpful if the authors provided a better justification for specific aspects of the study. For example, why test color vision? Why was iris color measured?

3. Was only one IOP measurement done or were multiple measures taken? (page 9)

4. Visual impairment is defined according to WHO standards; what cut-off does Iran use for blindness? (5

5. It appears that some socio-demographic questions were also included although this is not clear. Is there going to be any information on previous history of cataract surgery? Or other treatment?

b) Compulsory revisions

1. It is not clear how clusters were selected within each district. In particular, how was the index house selected? How were subsequent houses selected? How was a "household member" defined? Since this is an urban area, how will flats be selected?

2. Non response (for the examination) was not addressed. What was done if a person failed to come for examination? Was there follow up?

3. It would be helpful to know the exclusion criteria for the different tests to be undertaken; for example (page 7) would refraction with an autorefractor be attempted on someone with a corneal opacity? Would the LOCS grading of lens opacities be undertaken on all patients? (page 9) Is there a visual acuity cut-off? It states that all patients would undergo a retinal examination (page 10). Does this include children?

4. Analytic procedures were not described. Please include what analysis is intended. For example, how will familial aggregation be analysed?
Competing interests:

None declared.