Author’s response to reviews

Title: The use of a pre-operative scoring system for the prediction of phacoemulsification case difficulty and the selection of appropriate cases to be performed by trainees

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We have attempted to address review 3 comments below.

1. The 170 cases were consecutive. The reviewer states that they were retrospective but as mentioned in the paper the cases were recruited prospectively. Each difficulty score was given immediately at the end of surgery of 170 cases. We have tried to make this clearer in the results section.

2. We have added further comment to the conclusion section further explaining the reasons for exclusion of complicated cases and the need for a further larger study. These are added on page 9 and page 11.