Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1  Date: 1 September 2006

Reviewer: Dany Najjar

Reviewer's report:

General
Most of the difficulties that arise during cataract surgery are not predicted preop, but occur intraop, such as patient uncooperation during surgery, miosis, etc.. or from mistakes performed at various steps of the procedure, ie. leaky wound, poor hydrodissection, imperfect capsulorhexis, especially when beginner surgeons are operating. (the authors failed to mention this ). Therefore, preoperative scoring systems that predict the risk of complications make more sense that those who are predictors of case difficulty.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes