Reviewer’s report


Version: 2 Date: 28 February 2007

Reviewer: Robyn Tapp

Reviewer’s report:

General
The manuscript has been greatly improved and the requested amendments have been made. However there does need to be a couple of major revisions made to the text of the discussion.

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

1. Page 12 para 1 – The statement on additional care for illiterate patients needs to be modified – it is too specifically targeted at UAE doctors. It should read something like ‘Therefore additional care needs to be taken….

2. The statement in paragraph 2 ‘Generally, it is established that the progression to DM retinopathy is inevitable…’ and ‘Control of other risk factors also seem to hold……’ Should be removed. It is well established that improved glycaemic control reduces the risk of developing diabetic retinopathy. Refer to the Diabetologia. 2001 Feb;44(2):156-63. Additionally that improved BP also has a major impact at reducing the risk of developing retinopathy.

3. Page 14 para 2 – The statement ‘DR was found to have a serious impact on the morbidity in the UAE population’ should be removed.

4. Page 14 para The statement It is important to recommend introducing early screening programs for DR for all DM patients in the UAE……’ needs to be modified. The statement should be more general, the focus on the UAE needs to be removed. This journal is for a wider audience.

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?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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