Reviewer's report

Title: Years of sunlight exposure and cataract: a case-control study in a Mediterranean population

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2007

Reviewer: Lingam Vijaya

Reviewer's report:

General
In this manuscript titled “years of sunlight exposure and cataract: a case-control study in a Mediterranean population” the authors tried to assess the relation between exposure to sunlight and cataract formation. The methodology is fairly sound. One puzzling fact in the manuscript is the time gap between the study period and submission of manuscript. It looks like the study period was 1994 to 1995 and the time gap is 17 years!

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

Specific questions:
1. Page 4, Methods, para 2- specify study period.
2. Page 5, Methods, Line 9 “what are the medical conditions? Were the diabetes included? Diabetics is known to cause cataract and this should be advised.
3. Page 6, Line 13 – Why such a long gap between study period and publication?
4. Page 13, last para: To maintain lens. ……antioxidant enzymes and micronutrients from ……nucleus. – Authors have not shown their results on antioxidant enzymes micronutrients and cataract. Without any evidence this discussion seems to be unnecessary. Authors can delete this para and next para on Page 14.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
NIL
**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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'