Author's response to reviews

Title: Customized pachymetric guided epithelial debridement for corneal collagen cross linking

Authors:

George D Kymionis (kymionis@med.uoc.gr)
Vasilios F Diakonis (diakonis@gmail.com)
Efekan Coskunseven (efekan.coskunseven@dunyagoz.com)
Mirko Jankov (mirkojankov@mac.com)
Sonia H Yoo (syoo@med.miami.edu)
Ioannis G Pallikaris (pallikar@med.uoc.gr)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Institute of Vision and Optics

Vasilios F. Diakonis, M.D.
University of Crete,
Department of Medicine,
Institute of Vision and Optics (BEMMO),
71110 Voutes, Heraklion, Crete,
Greece.

Tel: +30 2810 392450
Fax: +30 2810 394653
E-mail: diakonis@gmail.com

Heraklion, 26th August 2009

Ms No. 2061028657220805 BMC Ophthalmology,

“Customized pachymetric guided epithelial debridement for corneal collagen cross linking”

Dear Rikki Graham,

I am responding to your latest comments concerning our manuscript ‘Customized pachymetric guided epithelial debridement for corneal cross linking’.

1. Author list - The list of authors in the manuscript should be written exactly as they are in the submission system. The authors (forename, initial (if any), surname) should be written identically and in the order in which they are listed in the submission system.

The authors both in the manuscript and in the submission system are written in the same way, forename – initial – surname.

2. [Research - medicine] Abstract - Abstracts must be structured into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Please remember to also update the Abstract details...
on the submission page. Please ensure that the Abstract matches exactly what is in the submission system.

We have structured the abstract as mentioned (background, methods, results, conclusions) both in the manuscript and in the submission system. Both abstracts match.

3. Conclusions - Please insert a Conclusions section after the Discussion. We recommend including a Conclusions heading above the paragraph which begins `In conclusion...'

We have included a conclusion section in the discussion section in the manuscript as recommended.

4. Authors' contributions - Please indicate that all authors read and approved the final manuscript. Please ensure this is formatted into a paragraph rather than a list or in bullet points.

We have changed the format of the authors contributions.

5. References - References should be cited in the text using consecutive numbers in square brackets. Please do not use superscript numbers. Also, please place the reference before the full stop. For example `text [1].`

We formatted the citations in text as recommended (in square brackets).

6. Figure as two files. Figure 2 has been submitted as two separate files. We ask that if a figure consists of separate parts, then a single composite illustration file should be submitted which contains all parts of the figure sublabelled A, B, C etc. If this is not possible, we recommend that figure 1b be submitted as figure 2 and figure 2 as figure 3 etc. Please remember to change any references to the figures in the manuscript file after any changes.

We have changed the figure numbering, figure 2a is now figure 2 and figure 2b is now figure 3. We have included figure legends for all 3 figures and have corrected the figure reference in the manuscript.
7. Qualifications - Please remove the authors' qualifications (e.g. PhD / MD) from the manuscript.

We have removed the qualifications of the authors from the manuscript.

8. Email address - please include email addresses for all the authors on the title page.

We have included all authors email using the recommended format in the title page.

9. Introduction - Please rename this section Background & Surgical technique - Please rename this section Methods.

We have renamed the introduction and surgical technique as recommended.

10. Competing interests - Please refer to authors by their initials.

We have included the authors initials and not the full name.

11. "The authors have no financial or proprietary interest in any materials or methods described herein and they have equally contributed for the preparation of this manuscript.' - Please remove this information from the title page.

We have removed the above sentence from the title page.

We hope that the changes made are satisfactory, in case that you will be needing something further please contact us.

Regards,

V.F. Diakonis M.D.