Reviewer's report

Title: Advice about diet and smoking for people with or at risk of age-related macular degeneration: a cross-sectional survey of eye care professionals in the UK

Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2013

Reviewer: Jie Jin Wang

Reviewer's report:

The authors surveyed optometrists and ophthalmologists in the UK regarding their practice in terms of providing advice on diet, nutritional supplement intake and smoking cessation to patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Reported findings are descriptive. There appears to be differences in the type of supplement intake advice provided, and in the frequency of taking smoking history from patients, by optometrists and by ophthalmologists.

A major concern is the low response rate to the survey (16.2% of optometrists and 6% of ophthalmologists responded). It is possible that those who responded practice differently from those who did not respond to the survey. And the authors have not provided a comparison between the practitioners who responded and those who did not respond to the survey.

These survey data provide information about the recommendations eye care professionals in the UK currently convey to their patients. However, further purposes or implications of these data are not entirely clear: Are there practice guidelines on recommendations to patients in the UK? Or do the authors aim to develop such a guideline?

The Discussion section is extremely long. The authors should focus on the key findings from the survey and the implications of these findings in this section.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.