Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of health care system reform on cataract surgery and intraocular lens selection in Chongqing, China

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Dear editor,

We would like to submit the manuscript entitled “The effect of health care system reform on cataract surgery and intraocular lens selection in Chongqing, China”, which we wish to be considered for publication in **BMC public health**.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in China. Poverty is the main barrier to accessing cataract surgery in China. With the promotion of “Vision 2020—the Right to Sight”, under the guidance and with the support of China’s Ministry of Health, disabled persons’ federations and non-governmental organizations at home and abroad, significant efforts have been made to improve the accessibility of cataract services in recent years. For example, partial subsidies have been provided by the government, and free operations have been donated by charitable societies. However, not everyone who needs cataract surgical treatment can enjoy free or charity operations. The number of patients who need cataract operations remains quite large. So additional measures to improve this situation are urgently needed.

In 2003, the Chinese government began new national healthcare reform. This plan aimed to provide everyone the right to receive and afford medical treatment. The medical system reform consisted of two parts, the new rural cooperative medical scheme which was introduced since 2003 and fully implemented in 2007 aimed at providing insurance to rural residents, and the urban resident basic medical insurance scheme which began to be introduced in 2007 for urban residents who are not covered by urban employee basic medical insurance.

In order to investigate the effect of health care system reform on cataract surgery and IOLs selection, we retrospectively investigated the cataract surgery status of patients in Chongqing from 2003 to 2008. For Chongqing is one of the first selected points of healthcare system reform in China. It is also the one of four municipalities directly under the central government in China, either medical condition or economic basis in Chongqing is in the middle level in China, with some representativeness, the medical reform in
Chongqing could reflect the results of medical reform in China from a side aspect.

This manuscript has not been submitted to any other journals for publication and has been reviewed and approved by all the authors. We have no proprietary or commercial interest in any materials discussed in this article. Please forward all comments to me at the e-mail address shown above.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your reply.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Jian Ye, MD

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