Author's response to reviews

Title: Time-trend and variations in the proportion of second-eye cataract surgery

Authors:

- Lorena Hoffmeister (lhoffmeister@imas.imim.es)
- Ruben Roman (rroman@imas.imim.es)
- Merce Comas (mcomas@imas.imim.es)
- Francesc Cots (fcots@imas.imim.es)
- Enrique Bernal (ebernal.iacs@aragob.es)
- Xavier Castells (xcastells@imas.imim.es)

Version: 3 Date: 27 March 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

The authors would like to thank you and the reviewers for being willing to accept our manuscript for publication in *BMC Health Services Research*. We have further improved the manuscript by taking into account your comments and by checking once more the manuscript formatting checklist. The changes made in the manuscript are listed below.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Dr. Xavier Castells

**POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE**

The following changes have been made:

**COMMENT**

Abstract - Please elaborate the **Background** section of the abstract to place the study in the context of the current knowledge in the field, in addition to stating the aims of the research. Please remember to also update the Abstract details on the submission page.

**RESPONSE AND NEW TEXT**

The “Background” section of the abstract has been changed as follows:

“**Background**
Despite recommendations for greater use of second-eye cataract surgery and the bilateral progression of the disease, there is a substantial proportion of unmet need for this treatment. Few studies have explored the factors associated with second-eye cataract surgery utilisation. The objective of our study was to estimate the proportion of second-eye cataract surgery, evaluate its time-trend, and explore differences in utilisation by patients’ gender, age, and region of residence.”

**COMMENT**

Methods- Please document under the Methods section the details of the institutional review board that granted ethical approval for the study or the circumstances under which it was exempt from the need of ethical approval.
RESPONSE AND NEW TEXT
The following sentence has been included in the methods section (page 6, last paragraph):
“The study followed the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the ethical committee of the research centre.”

COMMENT
Please carefully proof-read your manuscript as there were a few grammatical errors with the incorrect use of present tense.

RESPONSE
A native-english reviewer has corrected the mentioned errors.