Author's response to reviews

Title: What is the global burden of visual impairment?

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The Editors
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Sub: MS 1142010533876472 revision

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your invitation to revise this manuscript. We appreciate very much the constructive comments by the reviewers. These comments are addressed as follows in the revision:

Luciano Cerulli
1. As suggested, on page 6 “any” is replaced with “either” at three places.
2. As suggested, on page 6 “mismatch” is replaced with “discrepancy”.
3. The wording suggested by the reviewer, with minor modification, is now used for exclusion criterion 7 on page 6.
4. Page 7, lines 8-11. This phrase is used to specify the issue of “visual impairment due to refractive error in one or both of the visual impairment categories used by WHO”. This phrase explicitly states that the papers which enabled assessment of visual impairment due to refractive error even in one of the two visual impairment categories used by WHO were included. Although some readers may be able to infer this even without use of this phrase, we feel that it is better to be explicit for the benefit of all readers.
5. We have checked the manuscript to hyphenate best-corrected, meta-analysis and population-based at all places.

Richard P Wormald

This point raised by the reviewer that some persons who are visually impaired due to refractive error with distance visual acuity definition have good near vision is important. We have now discussed this on page 13 (last three lines) and page 14 (first three lines).

We thank BMC Public Health for considering our manuscript. We would be pleased to respond if any further response were needed regarding this manuscript.

Kind regards,
Lalit Dandona

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