Reviewer's report

Title: Physical activity restriction in age-related eye disease: Exploring fear of falling as a potential mediator

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2014

Reviewer: Bamini Gopinath

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. Other sensory impairments, primarily hearing loss is associated with falling as well as the fear of falling. People with dual sensory impairments (i.e. concurrent hearing and vision loss) could be particularly vulnerable and associations with fear of falling could be more marked in this group. Did the authors assess the presence of other sensory impairments? If so, they should account for this in the analyses.

2. It would add value to this study and complement the presented findings of this paper, if the authors were able to analyse whether fear of falling mediates the relationship between vision loss and activities of daily living scale scores. These data could be added to those related to physical activity and would provide a more complete picture. Was an activities of daily scale administered to participants?

3. Lines 199-203: Cognitive function was measured using the MMSE but this does not appear to be adjusted for in the analyses. Cognitive impairment is likely to be an important confounder.

4. It is a small clinic-based study. Therefore, the size of the study should be noted as a limitation. Given that it's a clinic-based study its findings might not be generalizable to community-based older adults with AMD or glaucoma, and this should also be noted as a limitation.

Minor essential revisions

line 148 does not make sense: ‘…FoF would mediate attenuate the association between vision loss and physical activity…’ Please rephrase.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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