Reviewer's report

Title: One-year outcomes of small-incision lenticule extraction (SMILE): mild to moderate myopia vs. high myopia

Version: 1 Date: 13 April 2015

Reviewer: Miguel Teus

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions;
- the mean preop spherical equivalent in both groups is not clear. the numbers in the abstract do not match with the ones in the results section. Please correct
- In the discussion section, lines 190-193, the conclusion that smile surgery seems to have a high predictability independent of the amount of the myopic correction is not correct. In my mind, the right statement would be "seems to have similar predictability independent of the amount of the myopic correction". In order to state that the predictability is high or low, there should be a paragraph comparing the predictability of SMILE with LASIK and PRK.

In fact, the literature suggests that in excimer ablations (either LASIK or PRK) the predictability is higher when correcting low myopia than when correcting high myopia. This comparison with the predictability obtained with excimer, and a discussion about the differences observed between smile and excimer regarding the amount of myopia corrected should be added to the discussion.
- the last paragraph of the discussion (lines 212 to 215) is based on the theoretical models that suggest that SMILE better preserves the corneal integrity than LASIK. Nevertheless recently a report if a case of ectasia after SMILE (last issue of JRS) makes the indication of SMILE in eyes with high risk for developing ectasia questionable. The authors should therefore "soften" this paragraph regarding the possible benefits of the smile procedure.

Minor essential revisions
line 69. Refractive, not refractory
line 140. No p value is provided for the comparisons of the uncorrected VA of 20/20 or better

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 have no competing interest