Author's response to reviews

Title: A Prospective, Longitudinal, Observational Cohort Study Examining How Glaucoma Affects Quality of Life and Visually-Related Function Over 4 Years: Design and Methodology

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Author's response to reviews: see over
April 10, 2015

Erica Cruz
BioMed Central
236 Gray’s Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Erica Cruz,

As requested here are our comments and revised manuscript for the study protocol we submitted to *BMC Ophthalmology* entitled: “A Prospective, Longitudinal, Observational Cohort Study Examining How Glaucoma Affects Quality of Life and Visually-Related Function Over 4 Years: Design and Methodology.”

1. Requesting name of ethics committee:
   - Please update your ethics statement to include the name of the ethics committee that approved your study.
   The Institutional Review Board at Wills Eye Hospital reviewed and approved the study procedure, which was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. This was already stated in the manuscript on page 4, line 77-78.

2. Requesting ethics and funding proofs

   a. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation
   Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records.
   We have forwarded the copies of all ethical approval and funding approval to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

   b. Funding
   A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the ‘competing interests’ section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.
   Merck is funding the study, and they receive quarterly updates that include any abstracts presented or manuscripts written. They do not conduct peer review on submissions as this is an investigator initiated, observational study.

   c. Study status
The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

The study is ongoing in follow-up stages. Recruitment ended in May 2014.

d. Related Articles
Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

No articles containing the results of this study been submitted for publication or published.

Sincerely,

Michael Waisbourd, MD