Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluating vision-related quality of life in preoperative cataract patients and analyzing its influencing factors in China: a cross-sectional study

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

We would like to submit a full length article entitled “Evaluating vision-related quality of life in preoperative cataract patients and analyzing its influencing factors in China” to *BMC Ophthalmology*. At first we submitted this article to *BMC Public Health*, the editor of *BMC Public Health* suggested that our article would be suited for *BMC Ophthalmology*. We think it is a good suggestion and we feel very grateful to the editor. The manuscript ID of my original submission to *BMC Public Health* is 1456554747168803. We hope that you will consider the manuscript for publication in *BMC Ophthalmology*.

The main content of the manuscript concerns about evaluating vision-related quality of life in Chinese cataract patients and analyzing its influencing factors. China has the largest number of visually disabled people in the world, and cataracts are the leading cause of this visual disability in China, accounting for 60% of all visual disabilities. According to the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability, there were approximately 7.4 million people with visual disability due to cataracts in China. Cataracts are primarily an age-related disease. Among the cataract-disabled people in China, over 90% are aged 60 years or older. And the number of people with cataracts is expected to increase further as the population ages. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Chinese government, not all patients with cataracts can have their quality of vision restored in a sufficiently short time due to the country’s huge backlog of patients with cataract-associated visual impairment. Consequently, a considerable amount of cataract patients will endure the suffering and hardship caused by visual impairment for a long time. Visual impairment has been found to have negative impacts on quality of life, such as daily activity limitations, depression and social isolation. However, not much is known about the impact of visual impairment on the quality of life of Chinese cataract patients. So it is necessary to understand the vision-related quality of life in Chinese cataract patients.

In this study, we conducted a cross-sectional survey in the Ophthalmology Department of the Fourth Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University, Shenyang, China. There were 401 preoperative cataract patients participating in this survey. We used the Chinese version of the National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire-25 (CHI-NEI-VFQ-25) to evaluate vision-related quality of life in these cataract patients, and analyze its influencing factors. We
found that Chinese cataract patients had lower composite score and subscale scores than those of previous studies; visual impairment had more impact on the psychosocial domain than other domains of the patients’ quality of life; visual acuity in the better eye and education attainment were positively associated with vision-related quality of life; age was negatively associated with vision-related quality of life in cataract patients. We think that this study will provide scientific evidence of the impact of cataracts on quality of life in Chinese cataract patients.

We consider that our manuscript would be suitable for publication in *BMC Ophthalmology*. The results of our study have an important significance for the researchers and the public to understand vision-related quality of life in Chinese cataract patients, and will provide scientific support for administrators to place greater emphasis on cataract prevention and treatment. We think that Public Health researchers, Ophthalmology researchers and Health Service Administration researchers will be interested in our research.

All of our authors certify that the manuscript is our original unpublished work and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors declare they have no competing financial interests and no other relevant disclosures.

Sir, all of our authors have contributed to this project, have read the manuscript, and agreed to submit this paper to your journal. We would be very grateful if you could initiate the reviewing process. Thank you. We are looking forward to hearing from you in due time.

Yours sincerely,

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