Reviewer’s report

Title: Epithelial Changes with Corneal Punctate Epitheliopathy in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Their Correlation with Time to Healing

Version: 0 Date: 30 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Dimitra Makrynioti

Reviewer's report:

(Major Compulsory Revision) Needs some language corrections before being published

1. p.3, Line 05: Delete "in 2013" after (T2DM)

2. p.3, Lines 05 & 06: Rephrase please - maybe "to increase to 592 by 2035, an increase of 55%"


4. p.4, Lines 1-3: Give more details on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

5. p4, Lines 1-3: How did you choose which eye? Give details. You mention that in line 49-50, but add more details in lines 1-3 as well.

6. p.4, Lines 1-3: Any previous power analysis? Please give details.

7. p.4, Lines 11-14: Onset of T2DM? For how many years they had T2DM? Was it under consideration?

8. p.4, Lines 16-17: Was the categorization of CPE used for all patients, with & without T2DM? Give details.

9. p.4, Lines 51-52: The three images for the analysis were selected and analyzed by the same examiner? Was the procedure done in masked way or not? Give details.


11. p.5, Lines 6-7: (1) Shouldn't all patients be examined within the same time limit after the initiation of the treatment? Please explain. (2) Also give details on the examination procedure of the follow up visits. (3) Did you take IVCM images and after treatment to compare, or only in the first visit?


13. p.5, Lines 41-51, IVCM results, p.6, Lines 18-23, Figure 3: Based on my IVCM experience, I am afraid that in your Figure 3 you have: (A) Wing cells in A and most of the dendritic
formations to be artefacts due to anaesthetic/fluorescein/gel being introduced onto the cornea before IVCM and sits in-between the wing cells, (B) Basal cells invading in your Bowman's layer in B, (C) Wing cells in C, (D) Basal cells in D. Given that you selected the clearer of your images to present, on which you based your analysis and results, I am doubtful on the validity of your results and following discussion. Please explain and give details.

14. p.7, Line 2: "We too show" - Rephrase please.


18. p.8, Lines 3-5: Consent form - mention that in methods.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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