Author’s response to reviews

Title: Relationship between corneal biomechanical properties and structural biomarkers in patients with normal-tension glaucoma: a retrospective study

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RE: Authors’ Response to Reviewers’ critiques, Manuscript number: [BOPH-D-17-00102]

Dear, Editor-in-chief

The authors are pleased to hear text overlap issue is solved. We appreciate again Editorial Board for their patience and thoughtful considerations. We did our best to revise remaining minor issue. We hope that this revised manuscript now meets BMC Ophthalmology’s requirements for publication. A detailed response to the reviewers’ comments are described below

Q1) Please state clearly whether patients were enrolled or whether this was a patient record review.

Ans) We did not enrolled patients but reviewed their records retrospectively. To clarify this, we modified the sentence in materials and methods section (page 4, line number 92)
“We enrolled glaucoma patients and normal controls from the glaucoma clinic of the ophthalmology department of Pusan National University Hospital, and from those who visited our hospital for correction of refractive errors or regular health check-ups.”

>> was modified to >>

“We retrospectively reviewed the records of glaucoma patients and normal controls who visited the glaucoma clinic of the ophthalmology department of Pusan National University Hospital.”

Q2) Please clarify whether the 'normal controls' included in your study were actually patients that were attending the clinic for routine check-ups at the time of the study. If the 'normal controls' were in attendance at the clinic for check-ups, please provide further clarifications of this in your manuscript.

Ans) Most normal controls were actually “normal” and we did not follow up them unless they want regular health checkup once or twice a year. Some normal controls were the patients who said suspicious symptoms like “blurry vision” but actually diagnosed as minor disease such as dry eye syndrome. They also visited our hospital regularly to manage their symptoms. To clarify this, we add a sentence (page 4, line number 94)

>> added >>

“We included the normal controls from those who visited our hospital for regular health checkups or for the management of mild ocular diseases such as dry eye syndrome.”

Q3) Please clarify whether all the tests done on the 'normal controls' are standard practice for check-ups in your clinic or whether some of the tests were designed specifically for this study. If this is standard practice, please provide clarification of this in your manuscript.

Ans) We are in the large national hospital and there are many normal patients visiting glaucoma clinic for various reasons. Some of them need a certificate to prove their eyes are normal, some peoples are just visiting for health checkup for their eyes, some peoples are transferred from
local clinic suspecting various ocular diseases with minor findings (most of them are normal). We routinely performed such examinations as ORA, Visual field test, Fundus photo, axial length, slit lamp, and so on at the first visit. We still perform those exams routinely at the first visit. To clarify this, we modified a sentence in method section (page 4, line number 116)

“All subjects received a complete ophthalmological examination including measurement of IOP performed via Goldmann applanation tonometry (GAT) … ”

>> was modified to >>

“All subjects received a complete ophthalmological examination at the first visit as a routine test of glaucoma clinic, including measurement of IOP performed via Goldmann applanation tonometry (GAT) … ”

Q4) If the study is retrospective, please clearly state this in the title.
Ans) We modified title (page 1, line number 1)

“Relationship between corneal biomechanical properties and structural biomarkers in patients with normal-tension glaucoma”

>> was modified to >>

“Relationship between corneal biomechanical properties and structural biomarkers in patients with normal-tension glaucoma: a retrospective study”