Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cap-Preserving SMILE Enhancement Surgery

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor in Chief of BMC Ophthalmology Journal:

We are pleased that the editors’ opinion was to consider our manuscript after the third revision, and we hope we could give reasonable answers to reviewers’ inquiries.

Hereunder is a point-by-point reply to reviewers’ comments: All changes highlighted by red colour in the manuscript

Reviewer 1:

1. Table 4. Usually, index values are not normally distributed data. Paired-T test is not suitable here. I recommend "Wilcoxon signed-rank test". Moreover, for t-test, both t value and P value should be given. For Wilcoxon signed-rank test, both Z value and P value should be given, too.

Done. Both in the text and tables 3 and 4, we added the test statistics and changed the test to Wilcoxon signed-rank test, when the one-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test with Lilliefors significance correction showed the tested variable was not normally distributed.

2. a- Only 9 eyes were reported in this study, but the data are not complete. I suggest the author report the details of the follow-ups.
As a retrospective case series and not a prospective study, not all data were registered. The objective and subjective refraction were repeated following our usual schedule. Every visit, the older data is replaced by the newer ones in the patients’ sheets. Only the just pre-SMILE and Pre-RESMILE, as well as the final ones (1 year post-RESMILE), are kept. All the available data are presented.

“In the planned two-step procedures, Pentacam was done after one month. If the refraction was consistent with the predicted one and stable since the first postoperative week the decision was to proceed to RE-SMILE after patient counselling”. (This paragraph was added to the manuscript).

b- A table or a flowchart is recommended to demonstrate how many eyes were measured at each time point.
Done. The flowchart is added (figure 1).

3. Obviously, accurate centration is important in SMILE, as well as in Re-SMILE. But I do not think the current data of this study can support the conclusion of "In Re-SMILE, accurate centration with respect to the primary SMILE procedure is of particular importance". Because no control group was set in the study. The data in this study can only support that "Re-SMILE may be an effective and safe procedure for SMILE enhancement".
Done. We modified the conclusion in the abstract and inside the text.

Reviewer 2:

1- Please recheck the format of reference.

Done.