Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cap-Preserving SMILE Enhancement Surgery

Authors:
Ahmed Sedky (asedky60@hotmail.com)
Sherine Wahba (drsherine_wahba@med.asu.edu.eg)
Maged Roshdy (dr_maged_roshdy@med.asu.edu.eg)
Nermeen Ayaad (neverrepeated001@hotmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor in Chief of BMC Ophthalmology Journal:

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

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

1. Please clarify whether the Re-SMILE was necessary after the primary SMILE in these patients.

This was clarified in patients and method section line 81-87.

We add “To preserve the SMILE benefits, as less dryness induction, we went for the cap-preserving technique” line 87-88.

2. Please clarify whether the improved cap preserving technique described in your study is already a standard technique used in your hospital for the patients described in your study.

This was clarified in discussion section line 270-283.
3. Please also clarify whether the patients described in your study were specifically enrolled to receive this surgery for the research aim.

Done, clarified in patients and methods section line 90-92.

4. Lastly, we note that the ethics approval number for this study is the same as the ethics approval number for a previous study of yours: Mahgoub MM, Roshdy MM, Wahba SS. Dellen formation as a complication of subconjunctival silicone oil following microincision vitrectomy Clin Ophthalmol. 2017; 11: 2215–2219. 10.2147/OPTH.S149531.

However, we also note that these are two different studies.

Please provide a copy of the original ethics approval document for the current study so it can be assessed. If the document is not in English, please also provide a translated copy with the original ethics approval document for the current study. In addition, please contact the ethics committee that approved your study and kindly ask them to send us an email to confirm ethics approval.

Sorry for this misunderstanding. The number written was the registration number of the Watany Research and Development Center (WRDC), and that is why it is mentioned in the other study. The registration code of the current study is: REF-2017-001. We added it in the manuscript, and sent you a copy of the approval.

We asked the ethics committee to send you an email to confirm the ethics approval.