Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of keratoconic patients at two main eye centres in Palestine: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0  Date: 30 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Poh Yuen Ying Rozaida

Reviewer's report:

1. This manuscript is a simple descriptive and retrospective study on the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of people with keratoconus in the Palestinian population. It is approved by the hospitals' ethics committee. It would contribute new information to increase awareness in the clinicians in their management of patients including treatment.

2. The title of the article reflects the content of the manuscript.

3. The article has clear objectives.

4. The abstract is adequately structured with the relevant information.

5. The statistical methods appear to be correctly applied, as the analysis involved mainly correlating BCVA with severity and comparing multiple groups. The number of samples was also adequate.

6. The conclusion answers to the objectives of the study.

7. However, the statement that 'keratoconus is a fairly common non-inflammatory' disease should be checked. Many studies have recently suggested that it may be inflammatory (see Galvis et al. (2015).

8. In addition, the tables should be improved:

   Table 3: Variable sex? N (%), why was the p-value in bold for severity of KC at presentation? I assume it is because it was statistically significant, thus it should be indicated in the footnote. Additionally, the name of the statistical test should be included in the footnote, as the table should be self-explanatory to the reader.

9. The typographical and grammatical errors are too many for me to list down in its entirety. Furthermore the page numbers were not indicated so the errors could not be picked out in a specific manner. However, a few examples are listed below:
Typo: Dissess - disease; sever - severe; follw - follow.
Grammatical errors: disease seduction?; improperly-structured sentences such as "With no significant differences was found to be in the mean age between sexes…"; 'going deeper with each parameter'? And many more.
It is thus recommended that a thorough revision of the typographical and grammatical aspects be carried out before publication.

10. Certain abbreviations were not explained, e.g. BCVA.
I would prefer that the authors address the aspects above before the manuscript is accepted for publication.

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

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
No

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

**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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.