Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Associated Risk factors of Dry Eye Disease in 16 Northern West bank Towns in Palestine: A Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Masakazu Yamada

Reviewer's report:

The authors made a population-based study to investigate the prevalence of dry eye disease (DED) in Palestine. The authors reported the high prevalence of DED in this area. Risk factors of DED found in the study were not novel. There are several concerns and flaws in the manuscript.

Major issues

1) line 137. Exclusion criteria

   Contact lens wear and refractive surgery are well-known risk factors for DED development. Please explain the reason for exclusion.

   The authors also described that patients with active ocular surface disorders were excluded. Were previously diagnosed DED patients included, or excluded from the study?

2) line 173. Diagnostic criteria for DED

   The authors stated that diagnostic criteria of DED in this study were based on DEWS 2017 report. However, DEWS II report recommends the use of non-invasive BUT, not F-BUT. Non-invasive BUT is longer than F-BUT in general. Therefore, when the same cut off value (< 10 sec) is used, the use of F-BUT may result in the over diagnosis. Please add some comments in the discussion section about the issue.

Minor issues

1) line 103. Please insert a space between film and stability.

2) line 104. Tears are located in tear film, tear meniscus, or conjunctival sac. Tear film volume should be changed to tear volume.

3) line 163. Add a reference to Efron scale.
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.

Yes

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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