Reviewer’s report

Title: Direct non-medical costs double the total direct costs to patients undergoing cataract surgery in Zamfara state, Northern Nigeria: a case series

Version: 2 Date: 14 December 2014

Reviewer: Serge Resnikoff

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. line 147. "Total direct costs were N9,020 (US$47) for men..." Please check. I think this should read "Total median direct costs were N9,020 (US$56) for men..."

2. table 2, bottom line, first value " ,020" should read "9,020"

Discretionary Revisions

1. line 56. "Cataract surgical coverage is also low at 38%" Recommend clarifying the VA cut off. Is this for 3/60? And is this CSC for eyes or CSC for persons?

2. line 121. Suggest clarifying how questionnaire was pre-tested.

3. line 149. Distance is emerging as the most important variable. Why only two categories (< 50 km / # 50 km) were selected? Is the cost of travel directly proportional to distance, or are there some threshold effects that could be of importance when trying to address the issue?

3. line 152 - 153. Median direct non medical costs are significantly lower for escorts than for patients. What are the possible reasons?

4. Tables. Results are presented in Nigerian Naira. Why not using UD$ in the tables, which might make comparisons with future studies easier?

5. Table 3. Recommend double checking the figures because the same value (3920 (3420-6720)) is returned for direct medical costs for less than 65 y.o., married and near distance.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.