

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 71495

Title: Changes in corneal nerve morphology and function in patients with dry eyes having type 2 diabetes

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05451362

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Reader (Associate Professor)

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Malaysia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-09-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-21 02:25

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-28 09:47

Review time: 7 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript was well written although I have penned down my comment on the script

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Manuscript NO: 71495

Title: Changes in corneal nerve morphology and function in patients with dry eyes having type 2 diabetes

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05387405

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MSc, PhD

Professional title: Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Hungary

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-09-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-10-06 06:57

Reviewer performed review: 2021-10-12 10:41

Review time: 6 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors of the manuscript investigated dry eye syndrome in patients with or without diabetes. The article is well presented, however, control selection raises question. Major issues: 1. Selection of controls raises questions, as authors did not conduct proper tests to exclude prediabetes or not-diagnosed diabetes. Fingertip glucose measurement for diagnostic purposes is unacceptable. As per latest guidelines of ADA, oral glucose tolerance test or HBA1C is the gold standard to diagnose glucose metastasis related diseases. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc21-S002> 2. No information was given about the nDnDM group. Were those study participants totally healthy volunteers, or did they have any symptoms just not meeting the DE criteria? If the second, can they be called truly as controls? 3. Did exclusion criteria included diabetic retinopathy / neuropathy as well? 4. Discussion's first paragraph is strange. In the first part authors talk about DE in general, then thesecond half of the paragraph reflects to results, which are not in line with the first half. Minor questions: 1. The cut-off for short- and long duration of diabetes should be moved to Methods. Please indicate mean+-SD duration for both groups. Furthermore, did those patients with long-time diabetes have diabetic retinopathy, neuropathy or any other diabetes-related complications? 2. Author contribution is missing. 3. Abstract contains several abbreviations that are not resolved. 4. Second part of Core tip cannot be understood without reading the article. The purpose of Core tip is to gain attraction without any technical detail, and must remain comprehensible, even to a researcher who does not work as an ophthalmologist / diabetologist. Please, update Core Tip accordingly. 5. "Introduction Dry eye syndrome (DES) is a common..." Correct abbreviation, in the whole manuscript DE is



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used, not DES. 6. Introduction contains abbreviations that are only resolved later in Methods. Please, correct. 7. Some abbreviation were never resolved (e.g. ICVM). 8. "Bland-Altman analysis in SPSS16.0 statistical software was used to analyze the consistency of data from the two researchers. If the data were consistent, the mean value of the two was taken as the inspection result." This should be in Statistical Analysis. 9. "No differences in NFD and NFD were also observed between patients with different durations of diabetes in the DMnDE group..." Please, revise. 10. "diabetes neuropathy" -> diabetic neuropathy. 11. Tables 3 and 4 are hard to read. Please, correct the column widths.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05387405

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MSc, PhD

Professional title: Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Hungary

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-09-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ji-Hong Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-12-29 10:34

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-10 06:37

Review time: 11 Days and 20 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The following small issues should be fixed prior publication: 1. Resolve abbreviations of table 5. 2. "In the non-diabetic group, diabetic retinopathy and diabetic optic neuropathy were excluded." -> Shouldn't it be: "In the diabetic group, diabetic retinopathy and diabetic optic neuropathy were excluded."