

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Meibomian gland dysfunction and primary Sjögren's syndrome dry eye: a protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis
AUTHORS	Zi, Changyan; huang, qun; Ren, Yuan; Yao, Huan; He, Tingting; Gao, Yongxiang

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Rodriguez-Garcia, Alejandro Tecnologico de Monterrey, Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
REVIEW RETURNED	14-Feb-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	The main eligible diagnostic criteria for Sjögren syndrome and MGD should be mentioned in the abstract's materials and methods section. The written English language of the entire manuscript should be revised by an English native expert on scientific writing. There are incomplete sentences and sentence construction issues that need to be clarified.
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REVIEWER	Palamar, Melis Ege Universitesi Tip Fakultesi Hastanesi
REVIEW RETURNED	19-Apr-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	This is an article entitled "Meibomian gland dysfunction and primary Sjögren's syndrome dry eye: a protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis (bmjopen-2020-04833)" which conducts a systematic review and meta-analysis to derive a better estimation of the connection, and investigates if MGD has relationship with the severity of Sjogren syndrome dry eye. The English needs major revision. Discussion is not adequate.
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Response to Reviewer Dr. Alejandro Rodriguez-Garcia

Thanks a lot for your comments. All of them are fair and constructive. Here are my responses.

Comment 1 "The main eligible diagnostic criteria for Sjögren syndrome and MGD should be mentioned in the abstract's materials and methods section."

Response: Thanks for this comment ,which is very crucial. We have added the detail diagnostic criteria of Sjögren syndrome and MGD in methods section , and mentioned them in the abstract's materials.

Comment 2 "The written English language of the entire manuscript should be revised by an English native expert on scientific writing. There are incomplete sentences and sentence construction issues that need to be clarified."

Response: We would like to apologize for the weakness of our written English language. we have tried our best to revise English sentences and sentence construction of the whole manuscript with the assistance from a professor whose English is good.

Response to Reviewer Dr. Melis Palamar

We appreciate your careful reading of our manuscript and valuable suggestions. After carefully studying your comments, we have made corresponding changes to the paper.

Comment 1 "which conducts a systematic review and meta-analysis to derive a better estimation of the connection, and investigates if MGD has relationship with the severity of Sjogren syndrome dry eye." The English needs major revision.

Response: Firstly, we are sorry for that our written English language is not native. We have done the best we can to revise the English with the assistance from a professor whose English is good. We have changed that sentence as follows: While no related systematic review and meta-analysis has been published, the present study is design to derive a better understanding of the connection between MGD and SSDE.

Comment 2 "Discussion is not adequate."

Response: Thanks for this comment. it's very useful. Because this is a protocol, which have no results, it gives a limit to discuss. We have supplemented some contents of discussion as follows: Symptoms of MGD have a significant impact on quality of life, causing not only ocular irritation, but also the sequelae of ocular surface inflammation and resultant deficits in visual function. SSDE is a complicated disease, that needs multidisciplinary participation. More attention should be paid to MGD.

There is an additional change of our paper:

We have not implemented the systematic review and meta-analysis, so the deadline of study searching has been changed to 31 October 2021.