Dear editor

We appreciate the authors’ comments on our manuscript.¹

Our paper focuses on addressing technical failures when capturing fundal images in a nationwide community-based diabetic retinopathy screening program. Patients undergo colour photography, and those with maculopathy and best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) of 6/18 or better also have digital surveillance using a combination of colour digital photography and optical coherence tomography (OCT). Patients with maculopathy and BCVA of worse than 6/18 or with sight-threatening retinopathy i.e. pre-proliferative or proliferative retinopathy are referred to a medical retinal ophthalmologist in the nearest treatment centre.

While OCT during screening in the community can rule out macular pathology and avoid referral to a treatment centre, the retinopathy grade remains unknown if the images cannot be graded. Patients with ungradable images or who are unable to position for photography, are referred to a local optometrist for further assessment using slit lamp biomicroscopy.

If further investigation is required, the patient is then referred to a medical retinal ophthalmologist in the patient’s nearest treatment centre where comprehensive multimodal imaging can be performed.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

Reference

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Clinical Ophthalmology 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Clinical Ophthalmology editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Clinical Ophthalmology

Publish your work in this journal

Clinical Ophthalmology is an international, peer-reviewed journal covering all subspecialties within ophthalmology. Key topics include: Optometry; Visual science; Pharmacology and drug therapy in eye diseases; Basic Sciences; Primary and Secondary eye care; Patient Safety and Quality of Care Improvements. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central and CAS, and is the official journal of The Society of Clinical Ophthalmology (SCO). The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: https://www.dovepress.com/clinical-ophthalmology-journal