



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	<u>International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health</u>
Manuscript Number:	2013 IJTDH 4183
Title of the Manuscript:	IS THERE ANY ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SERUM LIPIDS AND DIABETIC RETINOPATHY IN TYPE 2 DIABETIC PATIENTS IN GHANA?
Type of the Article	Research Paper

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 7 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	The manuscript of Alex et al. shows that in Ghanaians patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus there is no significant association between serum lipids and diabetic retinopathy. Comments to the manuscript are: 1) The study is well designed, well performed and well written. There is however a point to be solved, in order to confirm that the association between serum lipids and diabetic retinopathy is lacking the three groups of patients considered (diabetic patients without retinopathy, with non proliferative retinopathy and with proliferative retinopathy) should be matched for age, gender and duration of diabetes. The confounding effect obtained by the simultaneous presence of unbalanced gender distribution and significantly younger age of patients without retinopathy cannot be accounted for by any mathematical adjustment.	Thank you. Because of the relatively small numbers of diabetic patients in some of the groups which comprise our study population (for instance NPDR vs PDR; N= 78 vs 25), we could not match subjects for age and gender. Similar to analyses in other landmark studies⁷⁻¹¹, in our final analysis we adjusted for these factors and other important variables such as duration of diabetes and fasting blood glucose (FBG) which are established traditional risk factors for diabetic retinopathy and can modify serum lipid levels. This statistical analysis allowed us to exclude/control their confounding effect. Gender and BMI did not differ significantly (comparable) in patients with and without DR in our preliminary analysis hence were not adjusted for. Once again i thank you for your constructive queries.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		