



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Manuscript Number:	2014_JAMPS_11341
Title of the Manuscript:	Levels of oxidised low-density lipoprotein and high sensitivity C-reactive protein associated with retinal vascular occlusions
Type of the Article	Short Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The authors state that this as a pilot study in support of a larger study, which could definitely answer the points raised by this work. They have amended the title, abstract and text to reflect that this study should be considered as a pilot study. The patient sample size is seven and this is enough to be accepted in a pilot study. However, even though it is to be considered as a pilot study, the number of controls is just “two” and this is not enough to give an idea about the significance of the difference calculated. It should be at least six for the control subjects. ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE METHODS FOR BIOINFORMATICS AND BIOSTATISTICS (CIBB 2014) <i>A tutorial on pilot studies: the what, why and how</i> Lehana Thabane, Jinhui Ma, Rong Chu, Ji Cheng, Afisi Ismaila, Lorena P Rios, Reid Robson, Marroon Thabane, Lora Giangregorio and Charles H Goldsmith “Sample Size for Pilot Studies In general, sample size calculations may not be required for some pilot studies. It is important that the sample for a pilot be representative of the target study population. It should also be based on the same inclusion/exclusion criteria as the main study. As a rule of thumb, a pilot study should be large enough to provide useful information about the aspects that are being assessed for feasibility.”	Thank you to the final evaluator for their valuable insights. Given that OX-LDL and HSCRp both have normal ranges, it is not strictly necessary to have controls. We thought it might be interesting to include some normal subjects, but we can remove them from the paper, if it is advised. A full age matched control study (where cofounders such as other atherosclerotic conditions are also controlled for) is necessary to fully evaluate the role of these markers in retinal vascular disease. We submit that this pilot study show a sufficient trend to justify performing such a study.