

Review of: "Prevalence of visual impairment and associated factors among welders in West Shewa Zone Oromia Region, Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Page 3 - Comment 1 - VA can be strongly influenced by refraction and OM imbalances. This point needs to be clarified.

Comment 2 - Ocular bilateral degenerative processes are also associated with sun damage and age

(<https://www.pathologyoutlines.com/topic/eyepinguecula.html>). Comment 3 - A possible adverse effect due to blue light exposure should be considered, particularly for long-term exposure (see ICNIRP Health Phys. 2013;105:74–96. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HP.0b013e318289a611> and ACGIH. 2021;143–152. ISBN:978-1-607261-45-2.). Comment 4 - Was the UV exposure objectively measured, i.e., by a spectrophotometer? If yes, what was the output?

Page 5 - Comment 5 - A copy of the questionnaire should be included.

Page 8 - Comment 6 - While it is intuitive that welders highly exposed to UV developed a "visual impairment," it's not possible to consider the data reported above reliable.

Indeed, it's very possible that, in the studied population, the VI is below the standard also due to refraction and ocular motility alterations, as well as to exposure to blue light, both artificial and natural (the latter absolutely to be considered in a country like Ethiopia).

Page 12 - Comment 7 - See comment 6.

Page 13 - Comment 8 - I would add to the limitations of this study the absence of any objective UV assessment regarding the different welding systems in use.