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

Jeffery Hovis[1]

1 University of Waterloo

An interesting paper about the prevalence of visual impairment in Ethiopian welders. There are some relatively minor issues to consider.

Somewhere in the paper, the authors need to address the issue of refractive error. While uncorrected refractive error is a cause of visual impairment, uncorrected nearsightedness is an advantage for welding, and it could be that nearsighted individuals self-select to become welders, which could inflate the prevalence of impairment in their results. The relatively high percentage of binocular impairments suggests that this could be the case, since refractive error is highly correlated between the eyes of an individual.

Page 5, bottom paragraph. "coffee drunker" should be "coffee drinker."

Were the respondents who had an impairment prior to their welding career screened out? If not, how did they ensure that the impairment was not pre-existing?

Table 2. Expand in the text on what is meant by chemical exposure and how it was determined. Were there common chemical exposures?

Table 3. Expand in the text on what is meant by "experiencing eye symptoms during welding." Is this just a welder's flash? Related to this question, expand in the text on what is meant by "eye injury during welding." Or is this question referring to just the welder's flash?

Whether another table is added or the data is added to Table 5, it would be important to list the levels of acuity in the better eye for those individuals who have a bilateral impairment.

In Table 6, next to Work experience, change "3-4yes" to "3-4 yrs."

The citation format in the Discussion section is not consistent. Please review and edit.

Discussion section, 5th paragraph - What are "mild rays"?

Discussion section, 6th paragraph - "south Africa" should be "South Africa."

That's it.