Re: Hoogewoud et al.: Prognostic factors in syphilitic uveitis
(Ophthalmology. 2017;124:1808-1816)

TO THE EDITOR. We read with great interest the study by Hoogewoud et al.1 The authors conducted a retrospective multicenter analysis of patients treated for syphilitic uveitis and concluded that early improvement is the strongest predictor of ophthalmologic recovery, whereas the administration of periocular dexamethasone injections and methylprednisolone pulses had a negative effect.

The topic is very interesting; however, we would like to comment on some points of the statistical analysis we think merit further consideration. The authors state that 95 eyes of 66 patients were included, which means both eyes of 29 patients and a single eye of 37 patients were, actually, enrolled in the study.

Statistical analysis relies on the fact that all data points are independent of each other; however, the measurements obtained from both eyes of 1 subject are correlated. Therefore, collection of data from the right and the left eye of the same patient cannot be combined without taking this correlation into consideration.2,3

We would like to invite the authors to clarify this point, assess the correlation between the right and left eye of subjects in whom both eyes were included, and provide a rationale for their choice of one or both eyes.

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The authors of the original study declined to reply.

Available online: ■ ■ ■

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References