

CORRESPONDENCE

**The Association Between
Glaucoma and Immunoglobulin
E Antibody Response to Indoor
Allergens**

EDITOR:

I WAS INTERESTED TO SEE TSENG AND ASSOCIATES' REPORT in the May issue of the *Journal*.¹ I remain curious as to why there is no mention of the most obvious confounding variable to the results of their work: namely, eye-rubbing. Eye-rubbing has been implicated as a cause of optic neuropathy that can imitate (if not duplicate) the mechanism for glaucoma.² As rubbing one's eyes is a common sequela of allergic inflammation, the relationship appears to be a significant issue that could explain the authors' published findings. Rather than rely on specific immunoglobulin E results as a risk factor for the development of glaucoma (or, theoretically, an optic nerve disorder similar to

glaucoma), these findings may simply imply that someone who is prone to eye-rubbing may be more at risk of such a disease.

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THE AUTHOR HAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED THE ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest and none were reported. The author indicates no funding support.

REFERENCES

1. Tseng VL, Lee GY, Shaikh Y, Yu F, Coleman AL. The association between glaucoma and immunoglobulin E antibody response to indoor allergens. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2015;159(5):986–993.
2. Pecora L, Sibony P, Fourman S. Eye-rubbing optic neuropathy. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2002;134(3):460–461.