

Surgically induced astigmatism

To the Editor: In the process of publishing my abstract 'A new method of analysing vectors for changes in astigmatism'¹ in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Ophthalmology*,² my words were erroneously condensed so as to state that 'the method allows the surgeon to obtain accurate measures of the magnitude and angle of surgically induced astigmatism'. It should read as the original abstract appears in the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, that is, 'the method allows the surgeon to obtain accurate measures of the magnitude and angle of surgical error'.

The novelty of my method does not lie in calculation of the magnitude and axis of surgically induced astigmatism (SIA), as the editorial precis suggests. It lies in the ability to calculate the magnitude and axis of the newly described target induced astigmatism (TIA) and then determine the magnitude and angle of the surgical error by a

comparison of the TIA value, with the value of the SIA: the latter value is determined by a method that has been described previously.³

Accuracy in the description of scientific methods should not be compromised for the sake of brevity.

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References

1. Alpins NA. A new method of analysing vectors for changes in astigmatism. *J Cataract Refract Surg* 1993; 19:524-533.
2. Abstracts. *Aust NZ J Ophthalmol* 1994;22:87.
3. Jaffe NS, Clayman HM. The pathophysiology of corneal astigmatism after cataract extraction. *Trans Am Acad Ophthalmol Otolaryngol* 1975;79:615-30.

Editor's Note: We regret this error in bringing Dr Alpins' novel method to an even wider audience.