Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology and Cost of Herpes Zoster and Postherpetic Neuralgia Among Patients Treated in Primary Care Centres in the Valencian Community of Spain.

Version: 1 Date: 24 June 2011

Reviewer: Barbara Yawn

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions: You should also be comparing your costs to those reported by Yawn et al in the US since this is an international journal. It would then be helpful to have the costs in Euros also stated in dollars using the 2007 exchange rate.

Please explain why any reappearance of the rash in the same site is a relapse (even 10 months later???) and what you did if there were any recurrences at different sites?

Minor revisions: The cost of lost work is an average and could have a very wide range across people. That should be noted as a weakness.

There are several grammatical issues. Page 6 --the sentence says if the patient referred pain then they were followed monthly. You probably mean reported pain.

The next sentence says in the cases were--it should be where.

Just after 2.3 should say withdraw voluntarily FROM study (add teh from)
lost TO follow up, not lost during follow up.

Just after 3.2 typed as NPH instead of PHN.

In the discussion it might be helpful to suggest the possible total costs for Spain each year and put that in some kind of perspective compared to something else.

Your figures for the epidemiology of PHN and zoster should be compared to US studies as well as those in Europe.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.