Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of Spectrophotometry in the diagnosis of Melanoma

Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2010

Reviewer: Krzysztof Tadeusz Drzewiecki

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The type of the article: Study protocol and Technical advance article.
1. Question posed by the authors is well defined - improvement of early diagnosis of cutaneous malignant melanoma.
2. SPT techniques, the patients included and the statistical methods, which were applied should all be described within the chapter "Patients and methods" and not spread through other chapters. ELM criteria which the authors have used to discern between five diagnostic risk groups should be specified. APT criteria which were used to discern between four diagnostic risk groups are not mentioned in this paper.
3. It is difficult for me to assess the quality of data because I am not aware of the diagnostic criteria of ELM and SPT. In the chapter "Results" the authors apparently comments on relationship, between SPT diagnosis and thickness of melanoma. I can not find the data on thickness of tumour in this paper.
4. Better consistency in reporting and data disposition and discussion within chapters "Introduction", "Patients and Methods", "Results" and "Discussion" are preferred. The authors did not clearly stated what are limitations of SPT other then inferior sensivity and specificity.
5. The title and the abstract accurately convey what has been found.

In my opinion compulsory revisions are necessary before publication.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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