Reviewer's report

**Title:** Measuring Melasma Patients’ Quality of Life using Willingness to pay and Time Trade-off Methods in Siriraj Hospital

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 December 2010

**Reviewer:** Steven Feldman

**Reviewer's report:**

BMC melasma QOL review

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes.

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes, but the discussion could be shortened.
   Table 4 isn’t needed. The information would be presented more efficiently as text.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   No. One limitation that should be noted is that only patients were evaluated, not the general population of people with melasma. Thus, there could be a lot of people who aren’t bothered by melasma and who don’t come to a dermatologist for an evaluation.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   The title doesn’t need to name a particular hospital that many readers may not have heard of. Perhaps it would be more valuable to replace that with “a Thai population.”
The abstract is very well written.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
The Introduction is good but too long. Basic information about melasma already well known to dermatologists can be deleted. The authors say, “Dermatologists should include” HRQOL measures, but the references provided do not support what dermatologists “should” or should not do.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have received research, speaking and consulting support from Galderma (who makes products for melasma) and many other companies.