Reviewer's report

Title: The burden of co-existing dermatological disorders and their tendency of being overlooked among admitted patients

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2010

Reviewer: Daniel G Federman

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) The authors MUST describe who was the "gold standard" that determined who did or did not have skin disease. Was it one or more dermatologists? Was it anyone else?
2) The authors describe a total of 390 patients. How were these 390 patients selected for inclusion? Was it consecutive people admitted during a specific time? Was it a "convenience sample"? Over what geographic area did these patients come from?
3) In the discussion, where the authors use reference 19, it looks like it should be reference 15. Do they have their references correct?

Minor essential revisions:
Under "limitations", the authors talk about a lack of a "specialized dermatology laboratory". I do not know what that means. Does it mean that they didn't employ dermatologists or didn't have a laboratory capable of assisting dermatologists in making accurate diagnoses?

The title should reflect where the research was done. What is true for admitted patients there might not be generalizable to other areas.

Discretionary Revisions:
In the abstract, the total of infectious and non-infectious causes should be 100%. These authors don't do that.

The authors will move between "%" and 2/109 and 1/109 in the results section.

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.