Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment and referral patterns for psoriasis in United Kingdom primary care: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 22 February 2013

Reviewer: Jianzhong Zhang

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In this manuscript, Dr. Khalid and colleagues present a retrospective study regarding treatment and referral patterns for psoriasis in United Kingdom primary care. They concluded that in the UK, adult psoriasis incidence rate was 0.28%, and 18% were referred to dermatologists, the majority within 30 days of diagnosis. The finding is important and statistical analysis are reasonably well done, however several issues should be considered by the investigators.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Page 3, Line 5# authors stated “Higher mortality rates have been reported for severe disease in the UK.” Please specify what type of severe disease this refers to?

2. Too many figures and tables. Authors can choose to describe some of the contents of the tables in the text. We suggest eliminating a few tables that have no significant value to this study.

Please view and edit the tables and figures according to the standards for this journal.

Minor Essential Revisions
3. There are many factors associated with GP referrals to dermatologists that weren’t considered in this analysis. Examples of factors that also must be considered include: the severity of the skin lesions, and the patient’s understanding of the disease, the patient’s desire of improvement, and the effects of systemic therapy.

If relevant details are not available, authors can describe how these absent factors may affect results of this analysis.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

I declare that I have no competing interests.