Reviewer’s report

Title: Melasma and its association with different types of nevi in women: A case control study

Version: 3 Date: 7 February 2008

Reviewer: Luigi Naldi

Reviewer’s report:

There is a paucity of formal analytical studies on risk factors for melasma and this case-control study is welcome in this respect. However, I have a number of concerns with this paper.

Major compulsory revisions

Introduction: A statement about etiologic similarities between nevi and melasma is made. Are the authors referring to melanocytic nevi? Since the study hypothesis is centered around these similarities, the authors should expand on this issue.

Materials and Methods: The statement concerning the study statistical power is obscure. Besides the strength of the association, the authors should define the prevalence of the associated condition and, based on the alpha and beta error accepted, they should provide an estimate of the size of the sample to be studied.

Were hormonal factors, parity and gynecological history considered in the study? I suspect that skin phenotype may have a role in influencing both melasma and nevi. Was information about skin phenotype and eye and hair color collected in the study?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.