Reviewer’s report

Title: Attitudes of dermatologists in the southeastern United States regarding treatment of alopecia areata: a cross-sectional survey study.

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2009

Reviewer: Beom Joon Kim

Reviewer’s report:

1. Why did you choose the age group under 10 years?
: Usually, poor prognosis factor is under 5 years of age. And WHO classification of child is under 15 years old. Therefore, I would like to ask why did you separate the age group over and under 10 years?

2. Did you collect the idea about treatment rationale? and how did you compare the individualized treatment in the same category with different disease status?
: For instance, although in single AA lesion, when it was on the serpetile area or over than 2 years of onset time, it sometimes require more aggresive treatment.
: In multiple AA, two or threee lesions of AA can not be the same severity state when compared with lesions over than 5 sites which are considered to be poor prognostic factor.

3. Was there any question about family history (which might require more aggressive treatment)or any medical conditions which are related with AA pathophysiology? such as thyroid dieases, pregnancy status, nursing or lactation period, and so on.

It was interesting and informative article which explained treatment pattern of physician. But it might be better article if you can revise the above questions and comments.

Thank you.

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.