Reviewer's report

Title: Delay in diagnosis of muscle disorders depends on the subspecialty of the initially consulted physician

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Reviewer: Harvey Sarnat

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This manuscript addresses an important issue of delayed diagnosis because of patients initiating a workup with the wrong specialist or with a family physician who is not as aware of the differential diagnosis as a specialist would be. It is good to bring this "administrative"-like issue to the forefront because it can be addressed for greater efficiency and more rapid channelling of patients to the correct specialties. The survey that they have performed is well done and supports their initial contention that patients often are misdirected and do not receive the most appropriate examination and prompt requests of the laboratory studies that will confirm a diagnosis.

The authors could also mention the issue of some patients consulting non-medical personnel, such as chiropractors, homeopaths and physiotherapists who view the problem from the perspective of therapy for symptoms rather than considering pathogenesis and aetiology, the aspects for which they are poorly prepared by their training and orientation.

Another problem I have found is that several patients were extensively investigated for liver disease (including percutaneous liver biopsies) because transaminases were ordered, when the elevated enzymes actually were myogenic and a serum CK could have clarified this misinterpretation.

References are appropriate chosen for number and selection. No figures are required. The manuscript is well written with correct English grammar.