Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of herpes zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia on quality-of-life

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2010

Reviewer: Randall Cohrs

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Johnson et al. is a concise and complete review discussing available data on the impact of herpes zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia on the quality of life and functional status of patients and highlights current challenges in the management. This current review of the impact of HZ on the elderly is timely since an effective zoster vaccine is available, but not widely employed. Perhaps more knowledge concerning the pain associated with this preventable disease will encourage those at risk to avail themselves of the vaccine.

Only minor suggestions are presented.

pg 3. Change commonest to most common

pg 5. The authors note allodynia may predict a higher risk of developing PHN. What are other risk factors?

pg 8. Could the authors expand the section on non-pain symptoms and complications to include the increased risk of stroke within the first year of HZ?

pg 9. Delete population, line 19.

pg 9. A reference to (Merck data on file) is incomplete. Please provide complete reference.

pg 10. The inequality sign is pointing the wrong way. Please change <50 to >50 years.


pg 11. Please complete citation for Weinke et al., (line 26).

pg 23. Concerning references 43 – 45, an abstract should be cited in the text as ‘personal communication’ and not listed in the References section and thus giving the non-reviewed abstract the same weight as a peer-reviewed paper.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential revisions
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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