Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the Association Between Morgellons Disease and Lyme Disease: Identification of Borrelia burgdorferi in Morgellons Disease Patients.

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Reviewer: Ilknur Altunay

Reviewer's report:

Authors' response to my previous statements does not yet appear to be adequate in such a controversial issue unfortunately. They state that "their patients met the clinical criteria for MD as described in the references provided." However, I still have some questions as follows:

1- What is the medical background of the mentioned “health care provider”? Is he well-informed to differentiate a real delusional disorder from a real somatic disease, where it is hard to assess a multi-faceted disease such as MD even by an experienced psychiatrist or a dermatologist

2- What are “clinical criteria of MD”? Although, related references report some information about the topic and authors have studied on it in the past, I should point out that there is no consensus on it all over the world. Authors say that “all patients met the clinical criteria of MD” as if these criteria have been accepted by all scientific community and they are known by all related physicians.

We know from our clinical experience that such patients have some psychiatric symptoms similar to hypocondriasis, not only depression and/or anxiety, and also cutaneous lesions consistent with other delusional infestations such as excoriations, pigmentations, scars and occasionally open wounds. Some patients bring in cutaneous samples thinking that they are fibrilles. Besides, even if not all time, they respond to antipsychotic therapies.

Therefore, this article is very good at laboratory methods and techniques, but it seems, in my opinion, it is one-sided

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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