Reviewer’s report

Title: Features of Human Scabies in resource-limited settings: the Cameroon case

Version: 2 Date: 8 January 2015

Reviewer: Johanna Stoevesandt

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This is a well-written paper. Though not adding significant new information to the field of scabies in general, it provides an interesting insight into conditions in a low-income country. Information on the treatment and follow-up of patients should be specified. The most evident limitation of the study is the lack of a control group (e.g. patients presenting with skin conditions, but without scabies).

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. lines 64 ff, 186ff, 221ff, and abstract: A recent international “resurgence of human scabies” is not sufficiently supported by the given references 3-5 and 13-14. The authors should rather state that the prevalence in African countries is persistently high and refer to the actual rate (if available).

2. lines 92 ff: please specify how patients were treated and how follow-up investigations were scheduled. Did household contacts receive anti-scabies treatment? What did decontamination and quarantine measures consist of? This information would be of interest to a reader who is not familiar with the conditions in a low-income country.

3. lines 114 ff: if possible, add the rate of patients with crusted/Norwegian scabies

4. lines 140 ff: The odds ratio of 2.1 does not imply an 2.1 fold incidence of post-scabies pruritus in the case of eczematisation. The authors should rather state that their observations are merely descriptive as no significant association could be found. It might be interesting to assess whether there was an association between post-scabies pruritus and the time interval from onset of symptoms to adequate treatment.

5. Line 144: Study data do not allow any conclusions on the general incidence of scabies in Cameroon.

6. line 152 and 202 ff: Absolute case numbers of both studies are clearly not comparable if they where not conducted in the same setting including different hospitals etc.! The authors might try to provide (and compare) the rate of scabies cases in relation to the total number of hospital visits or total number of visits due to skin conditions.

7. line 160 ff: When stating a predominance of young age and a low educational
level in scabies patients the authors might refer to general demographic data from Cameroon.

8. line 186: please omit term “extremely” (scabies is but moderately contagious). While being a well-defined and long-existing problem, the observed diagnostic delay cannot be held responsible for a “current increase” in scabies incidence (compare lines 64ff).

9. line 215 f: Laboratory work-ups to definitely confirm or exclude scabies do not exist (omit sentence). You might instead specify whether dermoscopy and/or skin scrapings/microscopy were available to confirm the presence of mite.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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