Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Compliance with drug treatments and adjuvant barrier repair therapies are key factors for clinical improvement in mild to moderate acne: The ACTUO observational prospective multicenter cohort trial in 643 patients.

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 30 May 2015

**Reviewer:** Steven R. Feldman

**Reviewer’s report:**

1. In the title, I think compliance is a key factor, not plural
2. The abstract uses an abbreviation (ECOB) that is not yet defined
3. Line 84, bearing adverse effects in mind does not change adherence. Perhaps the authors mean bearing adverse effects in mind when planning treatment
4. Line 88, the authors say that irritation worsens adherence. Do we know that to be true? Perhaps irritation reminds people to use the medication. The authors cite reference 11 to support their view, but that study looked at missed appointments, not whether patients used their medication.
5. Line 78, reference 6 does not seem to be good evidence to support this statement
6. Page 118, “adherence and compliance” are these 2 different things? If not, pick one term and use it consistently
7. Need to tell the reader what ECOB and FDA stand for in the Methods
8. Line 150 (and elsewhere), full sentences are not needed to let the reader know there is a table or figure
9. Line 153 is “application frequency was 1.3/day” what they were told to do or what they actually did?
10. A table is needed to describe what adjuvant treatments were commonly recommended
11. Line 155, the word significantly in “was significantly (p<0.001) reduced” is redundant and should be deleted. Remove redundant use of “significantly” throughout the manuscript.
12. The manuscript is weak in describing study limitations. The critical limitations of self-reporting of adherence need to be addressed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I have had considerable support from Galderma Laboratories