Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost And Effectiveness Of Prescribing Emollient Therapy For Atopic Eczema In UK Primary Care in Children and Adults: A Large Retrospective Analysis Of The Clinical Practice Research Datalink

Version: 1 Date: 09 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Emiliano Antiga

Reviewer’s report:

The paper entitled "Cost And Effectiveness Of Prescribing Emollient Therapy For Atopic Eczema In UK Primary Care in Children and Adults: A Large Retrospective Analysis Of The Clinical Practice Research Datalink" is an interesting investigation about the role of the use of emollients in patients with the diagnosis of dry skin and atopic eczema. The paper is well written and the results are interesting.

The main concern is about the diagnosis of "dry skin and atopic eczema", that is quite generic and it includes (as reported in table 1) several entities that are very different from atopic dermatitis, including itch, pruritus, seborrheic dermatitis that account for about 25% of the non-emollient group and only of about 5-6 % of emollient group. Although it is clearly difficult in this type of retrospective research to have homogeneous groups with clear-cut diagnoses, this may lead to a bias that should be clearly reported within the limitations of the study.

Please check the use of the acronyms. For example, in the introduction, the term "atopic dermatitis" is reported even after the use of its acronym AD.

Are the methods appropriate and well described? If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls? If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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