

**FM COMMENTS 2009-12 10**

**Comments to Editor: Unfortunately, I tend to agree with reviewer 2 on this one - reject. Even reviewer 1 is quite lukewarm. The topic is a really good one, but as both reviewers point out, the treatment here is unacceptably superficial. The internet joke is typical of internet humor - demeaning and not funny. I think it says something that the author was unable to share an example of original humor.**

**Comments to Author: Although this is a fascinating, important topic, and the article has an intriguing title that made me want to read more, I did not feel the substance of the article adequately addressed the complexities of the use of humor in clinical practice. The concluding joke in my view is crude and perhaps demeaning to older persons. Humor can be a powerful tool for connection, but it can also distance and separate. Lack of acknowledgment of this point limits the value of the article.**