Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of ICS/LABA prescribing in COPD patients: A study from general practice

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Reviewer: Frank Smeenk

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a wonderful job in revising their manuscript. It reads well and covers an important problem: that of over and underprescription of medication, in particular ICS/LABA in COPD patients. The authors have addressed all the major concerns I had with the first version of the manuscript in a very satisfactory way.

For this version I have only 2 small comments:

1. Page 6: the sentence before the paragraph 'Medication prescribed':

   A combination of FEV1% predicted <50 and exacerbation in the previous year, indicating that ICS/LABA was prescribed according to the 2007 GOLD guidelines, was found in 19 (12.6%) of the 149 COPD patients and in 11 (18.6%) of the 59 COPD patients with COPD as the only diagnosis.

   This is somewhat confusing to me: This means that 90 patients had a double diagnosis of asthma AND COPD. Considering their diagnosis of asthma (and COPD) these patients already might have an indication for an inhaled CS regardless their exacerbation rate! So I would rephrase this sentence.

2. In the main findings paragraph of the discussion it is stated that:

   However, this association was significant only when FEV1% predicted was <50. But this refers to the patients with the COPD diagnosis only. Thus:

   'However, this association was significant only when FEV1% predicted was <50 in the group with a COPD diagnosis only. might be more accurate.'

   See for a few textual suggestion also the attachment.

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: None