Reviewer's report

Title: Impact Of Occupational Exposure On COPD

Version: 2 Date: 14 November 2011

Reviewer: Surinder K Jindal

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Essentially speaking, this is a retrospective study which included assessment of symptoms, work-disability and pulmonary function tests in COPD patients with and without the history of exposure to vapors, dusts, gas or fumes (VDGF) ever in the past. Such a classification based on self-reported recall exposure to a wide variety of vapors, dusts, gas or fumes is somewhat arbitrary considering the huge variations in the types, degree and duration of exposures. Moreover, the VDGF exposed patients were older, male subjects with more asthma-like symptoms and atopy. This is an obvious sample/selection bias. These differences themselves can explain the differences in work-related morbidity in the exposed patients than the exposure to the occupational VDGF.