Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased Risk and Related Factors of Depression among Patients with COPD: A Population-Based Cohort Study

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Version: 4 Date: 15 October 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief

We are submitting our manuscript entitled “Increased Risk and Related Factors of Depression among Patients with COPD: A Population-Based Cohort Study” to you for the consideration of publication in BMC Public Health. Although former studies showed that COPD patients exhibited higher levels of depression than others, they often suffered from several methodological drawbacks such as being cross-sectional designs, the absence of comparison groups, and having small sample sizes. In this manuscript, we addressed the incidence and risk factors of depression in Chinese COPD patients using nationwide-based database. Findings from this study indicate that the incidence rate of depression was approximately twice as high in COPD patients as in the general population, supporting the urgency of routine screening for psychiatric impairments in COPD patients.

The article is not under consideration by another journal, and has not been previously published. Because the data set used in this study consists of de-identified secondary data related to the public for research groups, this study was exempt from full review by the Institutional Review Board (Research Ethnics Committee, Buddhist Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital). All authors have sufficiently participated in the study design, conduct, and data analysis of the study, as well as in the writing of the manuscript. All authors have seen and approved the final version.

Sincerely yours,

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