Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Correlation between Depression, Anxiety, and Other Features in Outpatients with COPD in China

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Reviewer: Jennifer Cleland

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Major compulsory revisions
I am still unclear as to how the patients and controls were sampled, although this might be due to clumsy grammar. I read the sampling strategy as ALL patients with COPD in 12 communities were approached to take part. Surely the response rate was not 100% ie how many patients with COPD were approached, compared to how many took part. How did the demographics of the COPD patients who participated differ from those who did not? How were the 1100 controls selected/matched to the patients? (they seem to be matched in terms of gender, age, family size and income - were they selected from census records? Were the controls selected after the COPD patient responses came in? I remain surprised that the authors have not cited one of the main studies in this topic - Cleland, J.A., Lee, A.J., Hall, S. Associations of depression and anxiety with gender, age, health-related quality of life and symptoms in primary care COPD patients. Family Practice, 2007, 24, 217-223 - but instead compare their data solely with that from secondary care patient populations in the discussion. The discussion is quite long winded and at times seems to repeat the results section (e.g., the discussion about the BODE). In contrast, there is little about patient care - only the last sentence of the conclusion makes a nod to what to do about these issues in patients with COPD. Maybe this is not something which is of concern in China? What do primary care doctors do with patients with anxiety and depression generally? Are there guidelines as to what to do with patients with chronic disease and psychiatric morbidity? What are the implications of this study for future research (touched on), patient care and healthcare policy. Basically, the discussion needs to be re-written to be more interesting and reflective on what the results of the study mean, or could mean. The rest of the paper is much better for the revisions, but the discussion is not there yet.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'