Author's response to reviews

Title: Causes of death in asthma, COPD and non-respiratory hospitalized patients. A multicentric study

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Version: 6 Date: 7 November 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to reviews

Title: Causes of death in asthma, COPD and non-respiratory hospitalized patients. A multicentric study
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BMC Pulmonary Medicine (Section: Asthma and allergic disorders).

Version: 5 Date: 4 november 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.
We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.
The changes suggested by the reviewers have been included in the manuscript.

**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Causes of death in asthma, COPD and non-respiratory hospitalized patients. A multicentric study

**Version: 5 Date: 4 october 2013**

**Reviewer □ 1:** Mark Weatherall

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have responded to my comments;

**Major essential revisions**

The layout of Table 5 must be improved. The number of significant figures for the Odds ratio and its confidence interval should be consistent with the other tables (I think 2 decimal figures was used), the coefficient column is redundant as this is just the logarithm of the Odds ratio and the P value decimal point figures should be consistent with the other tables.

We have changed the Table 5 in accordance with the recommendations of the reviewer

**Minor essential revisions**

In the statistical analysis make sure that the statement about P<0.05 and the penalized adjusted P values for multiple comparisons statement is consistent. Alternatively could just leave the final statement out. I don’t think the authors have acknowledged in the discussion that their conclusions must be tempered by the large number of statistical tests carried out. I had some typographical errors for example on page 7 ‘usin’ instead of ‘using’ and ‘significativs’ instead of ‘significant’; I haven’t gone through the whole paper to find other examples.

After a new valuation, we are confident that statement about p<0.05 and the penalized adjusted p values for multiple comparisons statement is consistent.

We added in the discussion section, the observation that our conclusions should be tempered by the large number of statistical tests carried out.

We have corrected typographical errors observed.

**Discretionary revisions**

Table 1 has been improved and although my personal preference is that estimates and confidence intervals are presented for comparisons (rather than for mean values of each group) and that not all three possible comparisons are presented when there are only 2
degrees of freedom are available for these comparisons; I think readers will be able to make their own judgements about the limitations of the analysis. A similar comment about presenting all three comparisons with only 2 degrees of freedom for comparisons applies to Table 2

We are aware of the preferences of the reviewer but continue to believe that the comparisons between groups (2-2) in the table 1 and 2, provides better information and are more appropriate to text comments.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

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

Reviewer's report

Title: Causes of death in asthma, COPD and non-respiratory hospitalized patients. A multicentric study

Version: 3 Date: 19 February 2013

Reviewer □ 2: David Mannino

Reviewer's report:
The authors have responded to my prior concerns

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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