Reviewer's report

Title: Utility of the CAT in the therapy assessment of COPD exacerbations in China

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2013

Reviewer: Gaetano Caramori

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Major compulsory revisions
It would be interesting to also have data on blood and sputum differential cell counts and microbiology of these patients. Is CAT performing differently in viral vs bacterial or mixed COPD exacerbations? How has been reliably excluded other causes of symptoms mimicking COPD exacerbations (like PE and/or bronchiectasis or acute heart failure) in this population of patients?

The absence of a longer follow up of this cohort of patients is disturbing. In addition the different comorbidities should be listed in the 2 groups of patients as well as their drug therapy

Minor revisions
I agree with the author of the manuscript that a lack of baseline data concerning the degree of dyspnea (investigated by questionnaires or scales) and lung function are limitations to the study and this should be emphasized in the discussion. The size of the study population is another limitation too.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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