Reviewer's report

Title: Validity of a questionnaire-based diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a general population-based study

Version: 1 Date: 20 September 2013

Reviewer: yoshinosuke fukuchi

Reviewer's report:

Final comment regarding publication of the manuscript; Clinical interest and significance in epidemiological investigation of the draft paper is low but scientific approaches to the set aim is systematic and in good order.

As I understand your main policy is to let scientific data available to wider population if sound in nature even if the theme is not of keen interest, my final evaluations “accept after Discretionary revisions”

Reviewer’s report

Discretionary revisions:

1. COPD should be diagnosed with post-bronchodilator FEV1 % < 70% and spirometry in this study is done before SABA inhalation. As discussed in the manuscript this is a major and difficult to clear limitation, so the author should discuss how much over diagnosis might arise in this setting. Previous investigation indicated that the difference was up to plus/minus 20%. This should influence the figure for sensitivities which needs to be described in addition.

2. LNN as employed in this study is criticized by others that Lambda/My method might better be applied to more precise estimate of LNN taking non linear character of age decline of FEV1. It would be nice to have some discussion on this point.

3. Chronic bronchitis complaints are poor predictor of Air Flow Limitation, yet it may convey an important health problems in lay public. It will be nice to for the authors to give some message in this regard.

4. Air Flow Limitation and Air Flow Obstruction are both interchangeably used in the text. It should be fixed to either one.