Reviewer's report

Title: Internet access and use by COPD patients in the National Emphysema/COPD Association Survey

Version: 1
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Reviewer: Jerry Krishnan

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MAJOR

1. The authors should clearly state that this was a cross-sectional study design and what years or periods were involved in each of the 4 data sets.

2. The eligibility criteria for each of the 4 data sets should be described. It is unclear who was eligible and who was not. Therefore it is unclear to whom the results apply.

3. The abstract and discussion should clearly state that response rate was 7.2% and that the data were collected in 2007-2008. Do we know whether those who responded were different than those who did not respond? If not, we should state that as a limitation in the Discussion.

4. Do we know if internet use in the general US population has changed since 2007-8? This should be discussed in the Discussion section, even if corresponding information in COPD is not available.

5. What do we know about the validity of the survey? No information about the reliability or # items is presented. The survey should be made available on-line in the appendix.

6. Discussion - line 6- the authors state that this is a "national survey". With only 7.2% response rate, I am concerned about selection bias and limited information from some regions of the US. What areas of the US did the study sample cover? Perhaps a map with Ns from the various cities could be added to the Appendix.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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