Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of chronic sputum on quality of life in women with COPD: an observational study

Version: 1 Date: 4 September 2013

Reviewer: Takashi Hajiro

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The authors are advised to have the paper professionally edited for English grammar. Many grammatical errors and misspellings were recognized.
2. Out of 446 patients, only 175 patients were evaluated for multivariate analysis of SGRQ. Although the authors mentioned this low rate as one of the limitations of the study in Discussion, the reason of drop-out should be clarified in Result. It is very difficult to evaluate the result of multivariate analysis, which might lead to undermine the credibility of the current study itself.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Title: Does this title really reflect your findings? Please reconsider the title.
2. Abstract: line 9; SGRQ should be spelled out.
3. Background: First and second paragraphs dealt with general understandings of COPD. The authors are advised to make them concise.
4. Methods: The authors should elaborate more on inclusion criteria and recruitment of patients. Each physicians was asked to include only three patients? How you recruited what kind of COPD patients should be the key of this study.
5. Page 5, line 10: SGRQ should be written in full spell here, not in line 19-20.
6. Page 6, line 18: Did the authors get the written informed consent from the participants?
7. Page 7, line 20: Please clarify how to evaluate the severity of dyspnea and chronic sputum.
8. Discussion: The Discussion should be the place to discuss the implications of your findings, not simply repeat them. As your title shows, second paragraph in Page 10 might be the main point of your study. Please let the discussion have the focus on the most important findings of the study.
9. Page 10, line 21-22; Do you have any references to support this sentence?
10. References: Please rewrite it for its clarity and accuracy. Some numbers of volumes and pages were not written.
11. Page 13, Table 1: Numbers in Women column should be aligned.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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.