Reviewer's report

Title: Inhaled Drugs to Reduce Exacerbations in COPD Patients: a Network Meta-Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2008

Reviewer: Luis Nannini

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Ref 53. It was hard to accept this point. In such case, there ‘s a lot of trials involving asthma, and ex-smokers, where ICS had greater efficacy in preventing exacerbations in asthma comparing with COPD. I strongly recommend not including this kind of trials.

FIGURE 1. From the first 40 excluded trials the reason was not mentioned. For example how many were abstracts?

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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