Reviewer’s report

Title: Ten important articles on noninvasive ventilation in critically ill patients and insights for the future: A report of expert opinions

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Reviewer: Guilherme Schettino

Reviewer's report:

In the last decades the market has learned that ranking products is a good strategy to show and sell them to the public. Today we have a list of several goods that have to be consumed, such as the best 10 movies of the year, 50 best novels ever published, the 100 best restaurants in the world and even the 1000 places to see before you die! The criteria for creating these rankings are completely lacking of any technical or objective criteria.

The authors of the "the 10 most important articles ever published on noninvasive ventilation in critically ill patients and insights for the future: a report of expert opinions" study, all really great scientists that contributed a lot with the development of the theoretical concepts and also to the routine daily use of NIV worldwide, board on this trend of ranking things, and published this very nice paper that can help the younger physicians and respiratory therapists to understand how the knowledge on NIV was developed in the last three decade.

As scientists the authors attempted to create an objective method to justify how the critics and the articles were selected and ranked. Of course the method used can be censured, but not the final result. The choice of studies and their position on the ranking seem to be very precise.

I would like to point out few suggestions for the authors and especially for the readers of this article:

- The authors are, except for one, Europeans (and almost all Italians and French). It would suggest listening to other experts around the world, including Canadians, Americans, Latin Americans, Australians and Asians, all of whom have important contributions in the field of noninvasive ventilation. I believe that cultural diversity is an important mediator of opinions.
Please, give more relevance to studies with negative results, and not only list trials showing advantages of using NIV when compared to oxygen supplementation or invasive ventilation. In all areas of knowledge, and mainly in medicine, learning what not to do is so important, or even more, as than the recommendations of what should be done.

Minor suggestion:

- I would recommend the authors to show in table 1 how many times each one of the ten elected articles has been cited since publication.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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