Author’s response to reviews

Title: Morbidity and mortality in a population of patients affected by heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: an observational study

Authors:

Eugenio Cosentino (submission@polistudium.it)
Matteo Landolfo (m.landolfo.doc@gmail.com)
Crescenzio Bentivenga (crescenzio.bentivenga@asops.bo.it)
Luca Spinardi (luca.spinardi@aosp.bo.it)
Daniela Espositi (daniela.degliesposti@aosp.bo.it)
Arrigo Cicero (arrigo.cicero@unibo.it)
Rinaldo Miceli (rinaldo.miceli@gmail.com)
Virna Bui (virna.bui2@unibo.it)
Emanuela Berardi (emanuela.berardi@gmail.com)
Claudio Borghi (claudio.borghi@unibo.it)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

We thank you for your relevant comments and useful suggestions to our work. We hope that our manuscript has improved after implementing reviewers’ suggestion. Please note that the revisions are not tracked to improve readability, since they were very extensive.

In more details:

Reviewer 1:

We thank the reviewer for his suggestions. We modified the text according to reviewer’s comments:
- We quoted PMID 27956645 in the introduction, underlying the important role of natriuretic peptides in patients with HF and COPD

- We explained in a detailed way what Indacaterol and Glycopirronium are, their mechanisms of action and effects

- We discussed briefly what CAT is and its role in patients with COPD

- Unfortunately we have no data on GLS in our patients

- We updated table 2 in order to show that there were no differences in respiratory therapy between the two groups (see Table 2)

- We merged table 2 and table 3 as suggested

- If we understood the request correctly, we reply to the reviewer that during follow up, no other therapy was necessary in our patients after the introduction of indacaterol/glycopirronium combination

- We added p-values to Table 1.

- Following Reviewer’s suggestion, we added a flow chart showing how eligibility and inclusion of the patients were assessed, with criteria for exclusion

- We added a table to show the main changes in respiratory parameters (see table 4)

- We quoted PMID 28821412 in the discussion, as suggested by the reviewer

Reviewer 2:

We thank the reviewer for his nice suggestions. We did our best to modify the text of our manuscript according to Reviewer’s comments, by better clarify the endpoints of the study and the main results. We also acknowledge the lack of sample size calculation and limited strength of the result due to limited number of patients assessed and short follow up. Unfortunately we were not able to add a table with all the clinical and functional characteristics of COPD patients, as data collected were so many that the readability of the work would have been compromised. However, we improved the other tables in order to facilitate readers’ comprehension of the main results of our work.