Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 06 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Marco Contoli

Reviewer's report:

In this study the authors aimed to evaluate the effects of the fixed combination IND/GLY in COPD patients with concomitant heart failure. The study is of interest and it generally reads well. However I have major concerns to address to the authors.

What is the primary outcome of the study? Did the authors perform a formal sample size calculation? As a general comment I believe that 56 patients followed up for only 6 months is a too small study population to draw any general conclusion on safety, efficacy and mortality. However, the study has the merit to assess the modification of cardiovascular parameters (Echo and blood parameters) in COPD patients with HF following a respiratory inhaled pharmacological approach. Based on these general comments I suggest the authors to modify/rephrase the title, introduction and discussion sections. Furthermore, the authors must clearly specify the aims of the study in the method section and hieratically present the results.

The retrospective nature of the study and the very small study population hamper the strength of the results. The retrospective methodology is not clearly reported in the method section. Are the baseline data corresponding to the visit of IND/GLY first prescription?

Did the authors recorded/explored changes in inhaled treatments during the follow up?

A table summarizing the clinical and functional characteristics of the COPD patients would definitely improve the readability of the study.

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

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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