Reviewer’s report

Title: In search of potential predictors of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) hyporesponsiveness: a population-based study

Version: 1 Date: 08 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Yes, the authors responded adequately.

In Table 1, p-values were deleted. However, it seems to me that lines 49 to 50 on page 4 should be edited/deleted accordingly.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

a) Authors should not only address the question of model fit, but also report goodness of fit statistic such as Hosmer-Lemeshow test of the models in the main content.

b) Line 53 of page 4: suggest edit the sentence as follows: As covariates, all the potential predictors of ESA responsiveness identified from the database, including age, ......

By restricting potential predictors to all those factors [identified from the database], reduce the likelihood of an overstatement.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?

As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?

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Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are you able to assess the statistics?
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the 'Comments to Author' box):

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Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Quality of written English
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