Reviewer’s report

Title: Preliminary Results from the Finnish IPF Registry

Version: 2 Date: 19 April 2015

Reviewer: Michael Kreuter

Reviewer’s report:

In the report by Kaunisto et al, the authors report their preliminary results of the Finnish IPF registry with 112 patients. Currently, extensive is going on in this field and therefore analyses like the one reported here are of high value. However, there are many limitations.

Major points:
- if the aim of this report was to report on incidence and prevalence of IPF in Finland, then the inclusion only of tertiary care centers might have led to the exclusion of several patients outside of these centers. Moreover, the rate of patients who consented to this analysis (or had died already) was heterogeneous and also led to the exclusion of IPF patients. Therefore it is almost impossible to calculate prevalence and incidence of IPF in Finland from these data.
- the information provided by the authors is limited. It would be very interesting to compare the treatment habits, risk factors etc in Finland to those in Germany. For the later, an interesting paper has been recently published. I would propose the authors to increase the amount of information in their report and to compare the data to the German registry.
- was a statistician included in the evaluation of the data? what about missing data? how profound is the dataset?
- did the authors reevaluate histology? why was histology not concisely reported in the manuscript

Minor essential revision:


- the value of reporting the FVC and DLCO measures in the 5 different cites is questionable. Why is this important to the authors? is the regional distribution linked to any risk factor?
- an important point the authors raise is the minor value of ICD-10 for IPF. There was a nice commentary a couple of weeks ago in the ERJ which should be quoted and discussed
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Advisory boards for BI and Roche/InterMune