Reviewer’s report

Title: CHRONIC AIRFLOW OBSTRUCTION IN TANZANIA - A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Jens Bräunlich

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting study that provides data about prevalence of obstructive airway diseases in Tanzania and influence of biomass in development of COPD. The most questionable limitation is the low study population count and only two study centers.

Major comments:

Page 4 Line 91: Why do you not use at this time current GOLD classification

Page 4 methods section: I would prefer to know all inclusion/exclusion data.

Page 5 results section: I would prefer to see a flowchart.

Page 5 Line 140 and table 1: Additional demographic data e.g. BMI, kind of business, package years... would be helpful to interpret your data. Are the two centres in a region with mining industry or something else that could influence the results (more urban or more rural, medication with obstructive character, former diagnosis)?

Page 7 Line 182-187 and table 4: How do you explain this fact? In your study smokers have a better lung function. You should correlate your data with pack years status. If I read your data I would think that biomass fuels for cooking is more dangerous than smoking (exposure time?). Are there informations in the literature about this fact? Are data about both exposures in one group available? In general proof what do you want to say with this sentence. If you are sure about this fact.. please discuss it. Table 4 can be misleading. The p-values are not well allocated.

Page 10 Line 280: Were really all participants able to sign?

Was this study registred?

Are there parallels or differences to other countries in prevalence?

Minor comments:

Page 7 Line 178-180: This sentence is not clearly enough.

Page 7 Line 196: showed showed
Page 7 Line 198: Really FEV1/VC ratio?

List of abbreviation: add FEV1, Tiffeneau, GOLD, ATS/ ERS, FVC, JMP, BOLD

**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?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal