Reviewer’s report

Title: Aspergillus fumigatus during COPD exacerbation: A pair-matched retrospective study

Version: 3 Date: 18 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Saad Nseir

Reviewer's report:
The topic is of interest, and few data are available on the significance of Aspergillus identification in respiratory specimen of COPD patients with acute exacerbation. Taking into account the following comments would be helpful to improve the manuscript:

- Please give more information on the type of multivariate analysis performed (backward, enter method..)
- Were viruses searched for in lower respiratory tract specimen?
- A short discussion on the relationship between Aspergillus isolation and outcome (cause or consequence of more severe illness) would be helpful for readers.
- Table 1: p values for age and gender are missing.
- The type of respiratory specimen (BAL, tracheal aspirate, sputum..) should be provided.
- The manuscript is rather well written. However, it could benefit from some English editing.

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.
Yes

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**

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