Reviewer’s report

Title: Gastroesophageal reflux and antacid therapy in IPF: Analysis from the Australia IPF Registry

Version: 0 Date: 28 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Bruno Baldi

Reviewer's report:

The authors assessed the use of antiacid therapy, GORD diagnosis and GORD symptoms, and the relationship of such features with prognosis in a large sample of IPF patients from Australia. Although this study has not significant novelty, there are some relevant results, including the sample size and the evaluation of the frequency scale for symptoms of GORD (FSSG).

The following issues need to be addressed by the authors:

1) It would be important to reinforce in the conclusions of the abstract that robust studies to confirm these statements are still missing.

2) Is there any information about the rate of functional decline of those (14%) who have not completed the questionnaire? If such information is available, the authors may consider to include it in the manuscript.

3) The authors should include as a limitation that the diagnosis of GORD was based on self-reported answer of patients and it could have underestimate or overestimate the prevalence, with impact on the results. Did the authors try to establish how the diagnosis of GORD was confirmed? If such information is available, the authors should include it in the manuscript.

4) It would be important to briefly reinforce in the first paragraph of the introduction the limitations of pHmetry mainly to detect non-acid reflux.

5) Is the rate of annual decline in DLCO% available? The authors could consider to include such information and the impact of the use of antiacid therapy, GORD diagnosis and GORD symptoms on this parameter.
6) Did the authors consider that there was a significant discrepancy between %FVC and %DLCO? How many patients had associated emphysema or pulmonary hypertension? Were these variables assessed in the survival analysis?

7) It is not completely clear why the authors decided to use FSSG in the current study based on the fact that it has a modest accuracy. What the use of FSSG adds to the evaluation of GORD?

8) The authors should include in the discussion section the difficulties in determining the diagnosis of GORD and which complementary tools are used to confirm it. Which method they propose as a potential gold standard? Impedance-pHmetry?

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable
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