Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 22 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Michael Kreuter

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The manuscript by Jo et al deals with an important and currently widely discussed topic in IPF - the use of anti-acid drugs (AAT), which are recommended in the current guideline for the treatment of IPF.

While this manuscript adds important evidence, especially real world evidence, to this question, there are some limitations which should be addressed:

- the use of AAT is widespread, but the diagnosis of GERD less frequent in their cohort. What were reasons for the use of AAT in those patients w/o GERD and what would be results if the colleagues would concentrate only on AAT & GERD vs. No-GERD & no-AAT. Would outcomes be similar as reported here?

- may the self reported incidence of GERD be biased as pts. may perhaps not report to suffer from symptoms of GER under AAT and thus GERD is underreported? please discuss this as a limitation in your discussion section

- I would recommend to change this sentence in the introduction "While IPF is limited to the lungs, comorbidities are common in this population and many studies have shown that gastroesophageal reflux (GOR) is highly prevalent4-7, and may contribute to pathogenesis" to "While IPF is limited to the lungs, comorbidities are common in this population and many studies have shown that gastroesophageal reflux (GOR) is highly prevalent4-7, may contribute to pathogenesis and is reported to be associated with a better survival" as this reflects where the idea of PPI came from and was reported in 2 independent retrospective analyses: Lee et al. AJRCCM 2011; Kreuter et al, PlosOne 2016.

- do authors have data on respiratory hospitalisations / acute exacerbations? if so, to reflect the data by Costabel et al in the NIntedanib cohort, it would be interesting to see whether the data from the Australian registry would mirror these data or not
- data might be biased by different disease severities in the groups reported. Authors should please provide baseline characteristics of the groups in a table

**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

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Acceptable
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