**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Anticholinergics aggravate the imbalance of the autonomic nervous system in stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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**Version: 5 Date: 07 Apr 2019**

**Author’s response to reviews:**

The letter is our point-by-point responses to the comments raised by the reviewers. The comments are reproduced in double quotes and our responses are given directly afterward.

“While assessing your manuscript in-house, we found several instances where the text displayed similarities to text found in other previously published sources … We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the sections listed below to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate … This overlap mainly exists in the Discussion section.”

Thanks for these comments. According to the suggestion, we have checked suspicious overlaps and modified several parts as follows.

1. We have reworded the Subjects section to prevent being similar to the text in other previously published sources. These amendments can be found as follows. Methods section: ① line 8-13, page 5; ② line 22-23, page 5; ③ line 24-25, page 5; ④ line 1-2, page 6.

2. In order to minimize overlaps, we have re-phrased the sections of ‘Pulmonary function tests’ (Methods section, line 4-7, page 6), ‘Cardiopulmonary exercise test’ (Methods section, line 9-10, 13-17, 19-20, 25, page 6 and line 1-2, 10, 14-15, page 7) and ‘Statistical analysis’ (Methods section, line 17-22, page 7).

3. We have reformulated several paragraphs of Discussion section to resolve the overlap. These amendments can be found as follows. Discussion section: ① line 10, page 10; ② line 14-18,
4. In addition, we have modified the full name of FEV1 in the main body and abbreviation list as follow: forced expiratory volume in the first second.