Reviewer’s report

Title: High hemoglobin is associated with increased in-hospital death in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic kidney disease: A retrospective multicenter population-based study

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Brian Hobbs

Reviewer's report:

Summary:

The authors have adequately responded to my initial concerns and comments as well as those of my co-reviewer. On remaining major concern that came up in my repeat review is that the definition of CKD is not clear. That authors need to clarify that they took steps to assure that the low eGFR is indeed chronic (present for at least 3 months) and not representative of acute kidney injury (AKI). My remaining comments are mostly minor and semantic.

Major:

1) I apologize for missing this in my initial review; however, what criterion were used to separate incidence of AKI (new Cr increase either at presentation to the hospital or during hospitalization) versus CKD (kidney injury present for > 3 months as defined by KDOQI guidelines)? If the "CKD" definitions are based only on presenting eGFR at admission to the hospital and are not retrospectively determined by observation of at least three months of kidney injury, then this is a severe limitation to the assertions of the current investigation, where the presence of AKI would confound the association between COPD and concurrent "CKD." The authors need to clarify how the definition for CKD was obtained and what steps were taken to assure AKI was not misclassified as CKD. As CKD and CKD severity is the primary stratification point for the analysis, the CKD definition needs to be precise and accurate.

Minor:

2) Page 8 line 199 and page 9 line 207 refers to an "independent correlation," which as was noted in my initial review should be corrected to "association" throughout the manuscript.

3) Page 9 line 215: "independent association" can be simplified to "association".
4) Throughout the manuscript, the authors mention a "multivariate" analysis. I believe the authors intended to say "multivariable."

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

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.
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.
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