Author’s response to reviews

Title: Acute exacerbations of fibrosing interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue diseases: a population-based study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor and Reviewers,

We addressed the comments of editor and reviewers (see below) and revised the manuscript according to your comments. We appreciate the constructive criticisms of the reviewers and believe that our revisions have clarified and strengthened the manuscript. Specifically, we have made the following revisions in response to the reviewers’ comments point-by-point below.

Editor Comments:

In addition to the reviewer's comments below, I noticed that you haven’t addressed a comment by Reviewer 2 in the previous revision. Reviewer 2 wrote: 'Given the low correlation coefficients and hazard ratios, the authors should mention the weak association with the covariates. In addition, the 4th page of discussion mentions "In our relatively large cohort" and a few paragraphs below "...due to the small sample in our study". I suggest the authors adhere to a more realistic approach and clearly acknowledge the sample size limitations, which have already been pointed out by other reviewers.'
You reply was: Thank you for your comments. We corrected our manuscript according to your comments.

However, the manuscript is not actually corrected. Could you please make sure you incorporate these corrections in your text.

Also, there are some small issues with the language in your manuscript. E.g., you write 'Backgrounds' instead of Background. Please have the text edited by a professional language editing service or a native English speaking colleague.

Thank you for your kindly comments. We revised and highlighted these sentences in our updated manuscript with yellow color. We also invited the native English speaking experts Prof. Kevin K. Brown (Department of Medicine, National Jewish Health, USA) and Prof. Yin Chen (Department of Pharmacology, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA) for smoothing and editing this manuscript.

Reviewer reports:

Shinichiro Ohshimo, M.D., Ph.D. (Reviewer 1): Journal: BMC Pulmonary Medicine
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Title: Acute exacerbations of fibrosing interstitial lung disease associated with connective tissue diseases: a population-based study
Authors: Mengshu Cao, et al.

1. General Comments

The author investigated the prevalence, clinical characteristics and prognosis in patients with connective tissue disease-associated interstitial lung diseases (CTD-ILD) who developed acute exacerbation (AE) and identified risk and predictive factors of AE.

Authors adequately revised the manuscript, according to the reviewers' recommendations. Now it seems suitable for publication.

Thank you for your comments.