Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Shinichiro Ohshimo

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Journal: BMC Pulmonary Medicine

Manuscript Number: PULM-D-18-00700R1

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

Authors: Mengshu Cao

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 revised the manuscript, according to the reviewers' recommendations. However, there still seem to be some drawbacks prohibiting publication in the current form.

2. Major Comments

1) Inappropriate statistical methods: Authors added the univariate analysis for the risk factors of AE in Table 2, according to my previous comment. However, one of the covariates was changed from DLCO %pred to TLC %pred without any explanation. In addition, the selection procedure of covariates seems still inappropriate; i.e. too many non-significant covariates have been incorporated in the analysis.

2) Unclear prognostic significance of the variables: Authors added the univariate analysis for the prognostic factors in Tables 4 and 5, according to my previous comment. However, the selection procedure of covariates is still inappropriate, and too many inappropriate covariates have been incorporated in the analysis. The statistical procedure is incorrect.

3. Minor Comments

3) Nothing.
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.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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