Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of disease progression subgroups in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Version: 1 Date: 31 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Nazia Chaudhuri

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this retrospective analysis of a finnish population of IPF.

This study assesses the predictive values of baseline characteristics and composite scores (CPI and GAP) in predicting mortality.

It is well written with appropriate use of English language.

I have some minor comments that need to be addressed:

1. Please correct reference 1 as full reference eg page numbers are not given.

2. Line 30 The word Index is missing from Composite physiological INDEX (CPI)

3. Page 6 line 1 the authors use the term probable UIP for 22.1% of HRCT cases however this is not a feature of the 2011 IPF guidelines for HRCT classification. Probable UIP HRCT classification is a feature of the 2018 IPF classification. Please clarify which HRCT classification you have used in this study

4. In the discussion there needs to be a paragraph discussing the limitations of this study eg retrospective, small numbers of patients over a 10 year period, limitations of ICD classification, limitations of documentation of comorbidities ie was asthma diagnosis confirmed.

5. please discuss the differences in comorbidities between slow and rapid decliners in the discussion and why you think these may be

Regards

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.

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

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

Acceptable

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