Reviewer’s report

Title: Post hoc analysis of initial treatments and control status in the INITIAL study: An observational study of newly diagnosed patients with asthma

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Andrea Ban

Reviewer's report:

The diagnosis of asthma (Even in INITIAL study) was not clearly stated. Does a diagnosis of asthma require spirometry with reversibility in China. Majority of patients were between 30-60 years and about nearly 30% were either ever or current smokers. There may be some patients with undiagnosed COPD,

The conclusion that addition of LTRA does not add to better control of asthma- Discussion should include the benefits seen in asthma patients with LTRA are those with a history of concurrent allergic rhinitis.

The ICS/LABA in this study was predominantly budesonide/formoterol in all groups. Was there a reason for this? Different devices.

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.

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.

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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