Reviewer’s report

Title: Baseline Low ALT Activity, a Marker of Sarcopenia and Frailty, is Associated with Increased Long-Term Mortality after COPD Exacerbations. Historic Prospective Cohort Study.

Version: 0 Date: 24 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Irma Godoy

Reviewer's report:

The main topic of the manuscript is related to the relationship between sarcopenia, frailty, ALT (Alanine amino-transferase) as a marker of survival after hospitalization due to COPD exacerbation. However, the introduction brings almost no background information about the role of ALT in these conditions and the influence of the numerous comorbid conditions (Table 1) on the possible marker.

The manuscript is based on data from medical records and the period of inclusion is not included; and there is no control about the timing and quality of the measure. In addition, although all variables included in the univariate analysis is associated to survival, no statement about the variables included in multivariate logistic regression for mortality. The cut off points of ALT were not justified. Therefore, the manuscript has several major problems of methods and design.

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.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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