Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in incidence, mortality, and causes of death associated with systemic sclerosis in Denmark between 1995 and 2015: A nationwide cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 29 May 2018

Reviewer: Chris T. Derk

Reviewer's report:

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Good manuscript with interesting subject matter. A few queries:

Based on the manuscript the authors describe that data was collected after 1994, based on ICD-10 codes. Were ICD-9 codes ever used in Denmark or did the country transition from ICD-8 straight to ICD 10 codes? Please clarify this.

Do we have data on how many of the SSc patients are seen at specialized centers and how many are not? Validating just based on the highly skilled SSC centers would as expected correlate well with the DNPR. Why wasn't validation also done with patients not seen at these highly specialized centers?

What is the explanation for more renal, disease, diabetes, HTN and cancer in the late study period? Other than the fact that patients who started in the early stage are now older with more comorbidities, was there any change in access or utilization of health care during this time period in Denmark?

What is the typical Danish SSc population? If this was previously described in other studies would make a quick reference to this so that the reader can understand what sort of SSc patient population is seen in Denmark.

What is the though of why between the 1st and the 2nd 5 years the cases when up by 47 but between the 2nd 5 years and the 3rd 5 years the cases when up by 174? Related to the new SSc classification scheme of 2013 or something else?

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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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