

Review of: "A Prospective Study on Direct Out-of-Pocket Expenses of Hospitalized Patients with Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in a Philippine tertiary care center"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study aims to determine the economic burden of COPD admissions at the Philippine General Hospital. It also aims to identify predictors for prolonged hospital stay and increased hospitalisation cost. The small sample size is the major disadvantage for not finding any significant predictors for hospital stay and hospitalisation costs. Nevertheless, the authors could improve the logistic regression models by not including variables or categories with no values, e.g., class A and B in Gold classification, Cancer in comorbidities and smoking history in Table 4. They should also decide whether to include age as a continuous or as a categorical variable in the model, but not both. The same holds for Table 5. They can drop variables/categories with no values such as sex, diabetes in comorbidities, non-smoker in smoking history.

Moreover, the authors should explain the categories (A, B, C, D) of the Gold classification as well interpret the relationship between predictors and outcomes in tables 4 and 5. For example, what an odds ratio of 0.5 of Class D as compared to Class C means in terms of prolonged hospital stay?

It would help if authors give the reason for such a small sample size and what can be done to tackle this issue. For example, can a prospective longitudinal study recruit more patients? How feasible such a design would be?

If the above comments will be addressed the findings should be more interpretable and the paper will improve.