

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.

Thank you for inviting me to review this manuscript. The authors of this manuscript have selected the crucial and important topic that has paramount importance for the health providers. However, during my assessment of the manuscript, I have observed the manuscript lacks good statistical analysis. In addition, the authors should address the following comments before the manuscript can be considered for publication.

Abstract

What does "a prospective cross-sectional study was conducted for 6months by chart review" the study was prospective while the chart review seems retrospective study type.

A total of 43 COPD admissions were included" was unclear

Include types of analysis conducted in this section

The authors didn't found any significant factors for both hospital length of stay and hospitalization cost > Php20,000. I think it is better for the authors to consider different types of linear regression as the outcome variable was continuous and violates the assumption of normality.

The recommendation should be aligned with result of the finding and I didn't see this

Introduction

"COPD....." don't start the sentence with acronymy/abbreviation

"According to WHO..." write with word as it existed for the 1st time

"...moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) out of the 328 million estimated globally" use only COPD

".....whereas in other ASEAN..." do you mean Asian countries?

"This translates to at least 17 million smoking adult Filipinos" rewrite the sentence

"COPD presents....." the same comment to #6

"This significantly...." Please avoid inappropriate conjunction with the previous sentence. Modify as " It also significantly reduced the turnaround time....."

Remove "This study aimed to determine the economic burden of COPD admissions at the Philippine General Hospital" to avoid redundancy and also revise the next paragraph

What were the bases to include only 19 and above patients?

Write “ICD” with word

If you the authors excluded who were below 19 years old what does “A total enumeration of cases was employed for the sample size” mean?

The authors listed the costs that are excluded in the study due unavailability of data. However, their study design was prospective cross sectional which contradicts each other

“.....sources inside PGH...” write with word

“Odds ratio and corresponding 95% confidence intervals from binary logistic regression were computed to determine significant predictors for prolonged hospital stay and hospitalization cost of >P20,000” What was the categorization of prolonged hospital stay? Is it logistic regression is appropriate for continuous variable? What don't you used Tobit or other regression for continuous variables?

I am confused from where the patient admitted to private services comes as all patients were health insurance as described in “All of the patients included in this study had Philippine Health Insurance support, and zero private health maintenance organization(HMO) coverage” Justify it

Discussion

“There were no significant predictors for cost and duration of stay identified in the present study, and this may be due to the small sample size” Do you think the small sample size will brings this? Why don't you consider type of analysis used?

Conclusion

“Our study indicates that the mean hospitalization cost for COPD exacerbation is 28,200 with a significantly lower cost for charity admissions at 22,870 pesos (mean) vs. private admissions at 51,320 pesos (mean)” this value is not available in any of the tables listed. Please revise accordingly

Most the recommendation don't align with the finding of the study