

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.

It is an interesting article, it requires that the values mentioned in Philippine pesos be put in dollars in order to have a comparison with other countries. The economic burden requires differentiation with out-of-pocket expenses so that it could confuse the real purpose of the study. The topic is interesting, but the methodology involves people over 19 years of age or older, which clearly presents a difficulty when interpreting results in a pathology that, to avoid selection biases, generally involves people over 45 years of age.

Has consideration been given to how to avoid information biases related to assigning a diagnosis only with the COPD code J44? Was there no way to corroborate this diagnosis with a lung function test?