

Reviewer 1 v.1

Comments to the Author

Evaluation Manuscript ID: TAR-20-O47

Title: The prescription of antidepressants and/or anxiolytics is higher among COPD patients compared to subjects without or with other chronic diseases

Comments

Title too long and has an acronym, which should preferably be avoided in titles

Abstract

It seems messy, they mix methods with results. They should structure it better, giving it a proper order.

Keywords: COPD is not a descriptor MeSH. Antidepressants is not a descriptor MeSH the correct is Antidepressive Agents, Anxiolytics is not a descriptor MeSH, the correct is Anti-Anxiety Agents. chronic use is not a descriptor MeSH.

Methods. The authors say it is a retrospective, cross-sectional study. But they are doing an analytical cohort study, comparing the cohort of COPD patients with a control group without chronic disease. It is a retrospective cohort study. Why did they not include high blood pressure, which is the main chronic disease, at least by frequency?. Table 1 should be a supplementary table. The authors should explicitly say what are the 5 groups of chronic diseases. They do not mention if the protocol received the approval of a bioethics committee or if the Dutch legislation does not require it for observational studies.

Results. Comparisons of cohorts and RRs showing the differences between them are exposed.

Discussion. They should dig deeper into the reasons why COPD patients become depressed or anxious. In the second paragraph they talk about the GOLD initiative, but they do not include the reference. In the limitations they say "Therefore, it is not known whether, and how many patients may have had anxiety or depression prior to COPD diagnosis". This can be determined by looking at the prescriptions for these drugs before the first-time index date for COPD medications, so they would know if they were already receiving antidepressants or anxiolytics.

Comments: It needs major adjustments so that it can be considered for publication.