Reviewer 1 v.1

Comments to the Author

This systematic review regarding the unspecific biomarker of disease suPAR in COPD is performed according to guidelines for systematic reviews/meta-analysis. results are interesting but I find that the conclusions of the review are much more positive than results warrant. There are no state- of-the art cohort studies regarding this biomarker. No studies have been performed using validation cohorts and no studies have a long follow-up allowing for assessment of risk of AECOPD.

Major comments:

1. Can the authors please explain quality criteria for the included studies (only 4 are mentioned in Table S3.

2. From Pubmed it is not possible to find these included studies: Portelli 2011; Liu 2018; Hu 2017 and Loukeri 2016 seems to refer to an unpublished abstract. I dont think that unpublished data or papers published in journals that are not peer-reviewed should be included.

3. From Fig 2 it seems that the study by Wang h et al (2016, ref.no 27) also contributes positively to the association with COPD; however in this study only the biomarker PAI-1 was associated with COPD, whereas elevated suPAR levels were not. Can the authors please explain this.

Minor comments.

1. In the Discussion the authors refer to the study of Moberg et al (ref 45, p. 12, l. 23); however this study did not measure suPAR.

2. In the Methods, p.6 it is stated which of the authors performed different parts of the review. In the last paragraph, l. 43 it reads: ".... were assessed by two independent authors." Who were they? Are they in the author group?