Author's response to reviews

Title: Lung cancer symptoms and pulse oximetry in the prognostic assessment of patients with lung cancer

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Author's response to reviews:

Title: The prognostic role of Lung Cancer Symptom Scale (LCSS) and pulse oximetry data in patients with lung cancer.

Version: 4 (17th March, 2005)

Answer to Reviewer's report

Major Compulsory Revisions
We described briefly data on anticancer therapy, as follows:
"All patients received initial chemotherapy: in NSCLC, mitomycin C, vinblastine and cisplatin (61%) or carboplatin (22%); in SCLC, cisplatin and etoposide (17%). Nine patients (22%) received concurrent cisplatin radiotherapy (50.4 Gy) consolidation after four chemotherapy cycles..."

Minor Essential Revisions
The cohort comprised both small cell and non-small cell lung cancer cases (Results, paragraph # 1; Table 1)
Arterial saturation of oxygen is often written SaO2. The pulse oximeter device produces a measurement usually called SpO2, an estimate of SaO2.

We rephrased our statement on COPD and SpO2 measurement:
"Many patients with lung cancer have some degree of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a condition in which SpO2 may not accurately represent arterial oxygen saturation..."

Discretionary Revisions
We entirely accepted the reviewer’s English suggestions. An external language review was performed.