Reviewer's report

**Title:** Systemic effects of cachexia: Cachexia worsens the pulmonary function in patients with pancreatic cancer

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 31 December 2008

**Reviewer:** Steven Hochwald

**Reviewer's report:**

This report describes a group of patients undergoing surgery for pancreatic adenocarcinoma and evaluate the association between cachexia (defined as weight loss of 10%) and tumor stage and morbidity.

There are several problems with the manuscript which require correction.

1) The title has little to do with the results and needs to be changed

2) The abstract is not written properly. In the introduction describe the purpose of the study, in the methods describe how the study was done (retrospective review, etc). In the results describe the important findings and list the statistical significance. In the conclusions, finish with one-two sentences that correlate with title of the manuscript.

3) The authors should make some attempt to list the duration of symptoms in patients to see if this correlates with extent of disease rather than just looking at cachexia.

4) In pancreatic cancer patients the performance status is considered to be an important predictor of survival. What was the performance status in cachectic patients compared to those that were not cachectic? Did this correlate with survival?

5) The authors should perform a multivariate analysis of factors that impact on survival.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.