Reviewer’s report

Title: Rapid bronchodilatory effect of formoterol and salbutamol in acute asthma: A double-blind, randomized controlled trial.

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2011

Reviewer: Tim Harrison

Reviewer’s report:

This paper describes a randomised controlled trial of the acute bronchodilator effects of salbutamol and formoterol given via an MDI in children presenting with a mild exacerbation of asthma. The study design is appropriate and the study appears to have been well performed.

Major revisions: 1. It is not clear why all the data is described as the median rather than mean? 2. I would like to see a figure of the FEV1 results. 3. With equivalence studies it usual to have greater power than 80%

Minor revisions - I think the word "rapid" should be removed from the title and throughout the manuscript (ie page 3 "the objective of this study was to compared the "acute" bronchodilator effects" or just "the bronchodilator effects").

In the conclusion I think the authors should state "may improve compliance" rather than "will..."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.