Reviewer’s report

Title: Relationship between peripheral airway function and patient reported outcomes in COPD: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2010

Reviewer: Bill Diong

Reviewer’s report:

This paper describes a study to determine the correlation between 3 objective pulmonary function tests/measurements (spirometry, IOS and CT) to 3 patient reported outcomes (SGRQ, MRC, HADS) in COPD.

The question posed by the authors is well defined, the methods appropriate and well described, and the data appear to be sound. Moreover, the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition, the writing is better than acceptable and the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The authors also clearly acknowledge the works upon which they are building, and the paper’s title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

Compared to the original manuscript, the limitations of this work are now clearly stated: in particular, that this study’s population consists only of men and its conclusions are indicated for male COPD patients only. Furthermore, the suggested editorial changes to improve the language and readability of this paper have all been carried out by the authors.

No Major Compulsory Revisions are needed.

The following is a Minor Essential Revision:

1. 1st para of MS page 5 should read "... Global Initiative ..." instead of "... Gold Initiative ..."

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.