Reviewer's report

Title: Does mild COPD affect prognosis in the elderly?

Version: 2 Date: 5 January 2010

Reviewer: Hajiro Takashi

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's report: Minor Essential Revisions

1. In Conclusion of Abstracts, “affects” should be “affect”.

2. In the last sentence of Background, what does “geq” stand for?

3. With regard to the six minute walking test and distance, the abbreviations are normally 6MWT and 6MWD respectively. The authors are advised to describe them consistently throughout the manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors are advised to elaborate the main cause of death in this study population, and this information may help to understand why mild COPD did not affect survival.

2. The authors are advised to expand the discussion about FEV1 and survival in Background and Discussion. The current Background focused mainly on the classifications of staging of the disease.

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 that I have no competing interests.