Reviewer's report

Title: Outcome Measures of a 6 Minute Walk Test: Relationships with Physiologic and Computed Tomography Findings in Patients with Sarcoidosis

Version: 2 Date: 24 February 2010

Reviewer: Anne Holland

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this revised manuscript. The authors have provided considerable additional detail regarding the potential overlap between this manuscript and their previous papers, although it would have been useful to know the proportion of participants that have been included in previous papers.

Major compulsory revisions

My major remaining concern is that the 6-minute walk test was only performed once and thus the significant, known learning effect for this test has not been accounted for. It is therefore difficult to interpret the lack of relationship between walk distance and CT findings - it is possible that a significant relationship may have been found had the 'best' distance been recorded on a second test, particularly given the statistical trends evident in the manuscript. I am not certain that the conclusions of the manuscript, that distance-saturation product is a better measure than walk distance, can be justified.

An additional query is regarding the regression model. There were a very large number of variables entered (10-11 variables) in the stepwise multiple linear regression model, given that only 59 cases were included. I think it would be worth consulting a statistician regarding whether this is appropriate. I apologise for not identifying this before.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.