Author's response to reviews

Title: Does Pulmonary Rehabilitation address Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Patients with COPD?

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Dear Editors,

Re: Does Pulmonary Rehabilitation address Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Patients with COPD?
By Gale NS et al.

On behalf of my co-authors, I have pleasure in enclosing a manuscript for consideration in “BMC Pulmonary Medicine”, entitled above. Co-morbidities are important in patients with COPD and represent a major cause for morbidity and mortality. In recent years, we have been studying arterial stiffness and reported in 2007, increased arterial stiffness in patients with COPD compared with age and gender controls; this non invasive measure being an independent risk factor for future CV disease. Subsequently, focus has been on determining interventional strategies to assist and also mechanisms on chronic respiratory disease.

Pulmonary rehabilitation is a key therapeutic intervention in patients with COPD and is universally recommended in patients with MRC breathless score of 3 or worse. We hypothesised that there would be an improvement in arterial stiffness which was shown. Further studies now need to identify long term sequelae of this improvement.

This is a first submission to BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Bolton