Author's response to reviews

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

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Does Pulmonary Rehabilitation address Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Patients with COPD?
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Dear Dr Shipley

Please find revised manuscript in response to the reviewers comment, dated 11th March 2011.

Reviewer: Martijn A Spruit
C1: I am still in favour of a figure with the individual data points. Scaling problems in the graph can easily be solved by plotting absolute values of APWV on the left y-axis and of the systolic BP in the right axis.

R1: A figure has been added which includes aortic PWV and MAP before and after rehabilitation. Aortic PWV is plotted on the left y-axis and MAP on the right y-axis. Mean arterial pressure rather than systolic BP has been plotted as it is more relevant than systolic BP. We included MAP in the regression of aortic PWV and have always corrected for MAP in other manuscripts. The dilemma regarding scaling was not in BP vs PWV which are different units and hence need different scales, but in the scale of change seen compared to baseline values, believing that both scales should start at “0”.

We hope that this meets the requirements. Thank you again for your consideration of this paper.

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Gale and Charlotte Bolton