Reviewer's report

Title: The Reliability of an Arabic Version of the Self-Administered Standardised Chronic Respiratory Disease Questionnaire (CRQ-SAS)

Version: 1 Date: 23 January 2011

Reviewer: Toru Oga

Reviewer's report:

General Comments
In the present paper, the authors developed the Arabic version of the CRQ, which would be valuable in the Arabic countries. However, as a validation study, this is incomplete, and the authors should admit it as a limitation of the study.

Specific Comments
Comment 1: In the introduction, some of the explanation of the CRQ should be moved to the method section. Rather, the authors should explain for which disease the CRQ is used and why HRQL assessment is important in that disease.

Comment 2: The authors mentioned a “general” questionnaire in the paper. However, it should be corrected as a “generic” questionnaire.

Comment 3: In the method Stage I, why was the back translation performed from English to Arabic?

Comment 4: In the method, were pulmonary function tests, 6MWT and HRQL assessment done on the same day? Also, please explain how pulmonary function tests and 6MWT were performed.

Comment 5: In the method, the authors mentioned that age < 75 years old was one entry criteria. However, a patient of 75 years old had been enrolled into the study in the results.

Comment 6: In the results, patient background should be summarized as a new table, including the scores of the CRQ. And, please check the BMI values. Why are they so obese? Please also describe the true values of FEV1 and FVC.

Comment 7: In the results, did a long-acting bronchodilator agent mean a long-acting beta agonist?

Comment 8: HRQL tends to correlate with exercise capacity such as six-minute walking distance rather than pulmonary function. However, in the present study, HRQL is not related to physiological measurements at all. Please discuss why?

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
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.