Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T during acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a prospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 22 April 2012

Reviewer: Francisco Gude

Reviewer's report:

In this longitudinal study, the authors aimed to identify factors associated with troponin T levels during acute exacerbation of COPD.

Longitudinal studies, in which outcomes are measured repeatedly over time on the same subject, often provide better insights into the processes of interest than the cross-sectional studies.

Mixed effects models are helpful for these types of data because they allow accounting for and taking advantage of the structured patterns of correlation.

The acceptance of this manuscript depends on both statistical considerations and on scientific considerations in the specific area.

From the statistical point of view, linear mixed models may indeed be a good choice to perform the analyses.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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