Reviewer's report

Title: Differences in classification of COPD group using COPD assessment test (CAT) or modified Medical Research Council (mMRC) dyspnea scores: A cross-sectional analyses

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2013

Reviewer: Janwillem Kocks

Reviewer's report:

The article by Sunmin Kim et al addresses an issue that has been increasingly raised after the new GOLD strategy 2011 revision. There have been quite some studies published in this field the last year, and most of them draw the same conclusions. (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=MRC+CAT)

This study adds to the evidence that MRC and CAT measure different concepts. The authors raise an important point in changing the cut-off values, and what would happen then. Maybe a more detailed analysis and discussion would be possible with the data the authors have. This would add new knowledge, and help the discussion in the literature forward.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Please add more detailed information on how you have recruited the patients. Have consecutive patients been asked, was it a selection? A CONSORT diagram on how many patients were asked, how many consented, on how many all data was available would be useful.

The CAT has 8 items, but they are quoted in the abstract as domains, which is a different concept, please correct that.

Was the exacerbation history taken from medical records or history?

- Minor Essential Revisions

The SGRQ is mentioned in the result section, but not in the methods section, please describe the study in more detail in the methods section.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests