Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prognostic value of alveolar volume in systolic heart failure: a prospective observational study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 8 May 2013

**Reviewer:** Eric Snyder

**Reviewer's report:**


This is an interesting study in which Miniati et al describe survival and clinical characteristics of patients with systolic heart failure according to alveolar volume. I found the data to be somewhat compelling, but I do have some comments, listed below, for the authors.

**Abstract.**

- Conclusion, I would recommend that the authors leave out “Reduced VA appears...”. They have already demonstrated the relationship between reduced VA, but it is unlikely that this is causing death, is rather associated with worse prognosis (as evidenced by their BNP values).

**Background**

- The authors need to mention other techniques that can assess VA, and expand this. This is their key technique

- Similarly, the authors have to discuss what lung function parameters are associated with survival in HF and how their research adds to this (they discuss a few of these studies in the discussion). If this is not presented in the intro the reader wonders why even carry out the study?

**Methods.**

- When discussing the study end date (March 2009), the authors may want to mention the time that this is from the start date (2yrs?).

**Results**

- The BNP findings are quite interesting and should be expanded in the discussion. Here you have a biomarker, beyond simple survival, that is associated with VA.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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