Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 23 July 2013

Reviewer: Guelmisal Gueder

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Dear Dr. Miniati,

First of all, I think the manuscript is now almost acceptable; however my first question was still not answered adequately.

(...To convince the readers to perform extensive pulmonary function testing in HF the prognostic benefit of VA compared to FEV1 and FEV1/FVC (or FEV1/SVC) should be explored. Furthermore a direct comparison to total lung capacity would be desirable...)

In the study you cited (Miniati M et al, Int J Cardiol, Feb 25 2013) the adjusted risk of death for reduced FEV1 (<80% of predicted) was 1.8 (HR, 95%CI 1.2 – 2.8); the adjusted risk (HR) for reduced VA in the current study was 1.9 (95% CI 1.03-3.50). So there is virtually no difference in the prognostic power of both variables, but FEV1 is much easier available for the GP, please explain in the manuscript (practically not theoretically), why do you believe that “VA may provide independent prognostic value.”

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'