Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Arterial Stiffness in COPD

Version: 2 Date: 28 November 2013

Reviewer: Christian Clarenbach

Reviewer’s report:

The points raised have been addressed or a response made. The manuscript has improved from the original version. There remain some minor comments:

Minor essential revisions
1. In the results of the abstract, the authors describe that “aPWV was also strongly associated with CVD but this did not reach statistical significance”. This information is contradictory and should be omitted or adapted and differentiated between univariate and multivariate analysis. Please do the same in the last paragraph of the results section of the manuscript.
2. In the introduction the paragraph describing arterial stiffness as a target of pharmacological and exercise interventions has not been adapted although the authors claim ‘to have modified the reference to reflect this correction’. The revised version of the paragraph is unchanged and still misleading.
3. Omit reference 14 from the results section.
4. Omit “There was a trend toward a significant association between aPWV and CVD (p=0.06) (Table 2).” from the results section.
5. In the third paragraph of the results section table 2 and 3 are mixed up.
6. In the discussion the authors describe that they have shown previously that inhaled corticosteroid/long acting beta agonist likely reduces arterial stiffness. For the reader it is unclear why these inhaled combinations were not considered in the analysis.
7. In Table 2, FEV1 was listed in definition of abbreviations although it was not included in the analysis.
8. Last part of conclusions: Please omit “that adds to traditional risk stratification”
9. The quality of the figure is low and a figure legend is missing (or I haven’t found it).

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

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