Reviewer’s report

Title: the effects of pulmonary rehabilitation versus chest physical therapy on the levels of fibrinogen and albumin in patients with lung cancer undergoing lung resection: a randomized clinical trial

Version: 2 Date: 17 March 2014

Reviewer: Vance G Nielsen

Reviewer’s report:

Morano et al. present a prospective investigation of the effects of exercise or chest physical therapy on plasma fibrinogen and albumin concentrations in patients with lung cancer. The authors also measured secondary parameters such as quality of life and depression status. After one month of trial, patients that exercised had a significant decrease in plasma fibrinogen but not albumin concentrations, whereas patients that had chest physical therapy had no change. Exercise improved quality of life and decreased depression as well.

Major Essential Comments:
The article is in general well written, and the conclusions likely supported by the data. As a rule, it is best to present data in the same format within variable – the bar/SD and whisker-box presentation in figure 2 is not good. The statistics should be two-way ANOVA with repeated measures, not individual group t-tests or comparison of deltas within group with unpaired t-tests. An appropriate post hoc test will answer the questions.

Minor Comments:
With regard to exercise, here is an article demonstrating that fibrinogen decreases with exercise:

Relationship between Physical Activity and Plasma Fibrinogen Concentrations in Adults without Chronic Diseases.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.