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: 11 April 2014

Reviewer: Paolo Solidoro

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

I don't think so. Reading the paper it seems that rehabilitation has a role in reducing inflammation in lung cancer. Probably it's more correct to say that we have a reduction of inflammation in inflammatory comorbidities (interstitial lung diseases, obstructive lung diseases, infectious diseases) of patients with lung cancer.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

We have two groups with lung diseases and cancer, before and after two different kinds of rehabilitation; we have no idea about other therapies (corticosteroids?, Bronchodilators?) of these heterogeneous groups. Probably other therapies can influence the reduction of fibrinogen more than rehabilitation. Moreover if you want to understand the effects of rehabilitation on lung cancer you need a group with lung cancer without other pulmonary comorbidities and therapies.

3. Are the data sound?

It's impossible to understand the role of rehabilitation in lung cancer if we don't know other therapies.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Data are interesting but difficult to analyze.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

There is a great bias in selecting patients.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

No. The limitations referred have to be at least described in the article.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

1) The prognosis of patients undergoing surgery probably is related to fibrinogen too, but fibrinogen increases because of either lung cancer or comorbilities and
2) comorbilities are pivotal in prognosis and survival after lung surgery.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
I don’t think so, it has to be reiewed following the correction of the described bias (comorbilities, therapies). Probably in the title should be more correct writing “in patients with inflammatory lung diseases and cancer undergoing lung resection”

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 not conflicts of interest