Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Compliance with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy for obstructive sleep apnea among privately paying patients- a cross sectional study.

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 17 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Taiji Furukawa

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper describes the compliance/adherence of CPAP therapy among privately paying patients in Pakistani patients treated for OSA. Although the information may attract some interest of readers, the methods and description of data seem to lack enough quality to meet scientific requirement for the journal.

**Major points**

As a cross-sectional study, the number of patients with valid contact (75 out of 135) is too small to evaluate real world compliance/adherence level. It is very likely that most of the patients without valid contact withdraw the therapy. At least, authors should prove that the backgrounds of the patients are similar in those with and without valid contact.

The methods to measure the compliance/adherence level (telephone survey) have some problems for precise evaluation. Most of today’s reports use built-in capabilities of CPAP machine for usage day and nightly usage hour record. At least, the detailed description of “structured questionnaire” to assure the accuracy of patient usage is needed.

Furthermore, the authors do not specify the period of the survey (only the period of OSA diagnosis is specified). Readers cannot validate the CPAP compliance stated in this data. In addition, the definition of “compliance” is unclear because “continued use of CPAP therapy beyond one year” holds various meanings under unspecified survey period.

**Minor point**

Table 1: As “Compliant” and “Non-Compliant” are the result of this survey, the summarizing way (mean and SD according to the results) seems awkward. Number of compliant/non-compliant patients in category divided by certain number of the factors (tertile of BMI; 25 patients for each category, for example) may be used instead.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published
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