Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of the new COPD Assessment Test (CAT) translated into Thai in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Version: 4 Date: 31 July 2014

Reviewer: Benoit Arnould

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for their efforts to address my comments. I really enjoy reading the revised version of the manuscript. One last concern remains, which should be easily addressed with some rewording. Thank you as well for your patience awaiting this revision round.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Thank you for taking into account my comments about practical use of CAT. However, when reading this new version, I still feel the manuscripts conveys the idea that CAT has good measurement performances enough to allow its use in clinical practice on individual patients. Yet, Nunnally and Bernstein, in the third edition of the "psychometric theory" (McGraw-Hill series in psychology, 1994), have a discussion on the standards of reliability, which they claim should be different depending on how a measure is being used. They state (page 265): "In contrast to the standards used to compare groups, a reliability of .80 may not be nearly high enough in making decisions about individuals." And: "if important decisions are made with respect to specific test scores, a reliability of .90 is the bare minimum, and a reliability of .95 should be considered the desirable standard."

I would recommend the authors to make a clear disclaimer about the limitations of CAT in supporting decisions about individuals based on the score.

Minor Essential Revisions:
I would recommend the authors to have a final checking of language and writing.

Discretionary revisions: none

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

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