Reviewer's report

Title: Non-invasive mechanical ventilation in patients with diffuse interstitial lung diseases.

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: Annalisa Carlucci

Reviewer's report:

Paper was significantly improved in its new version. I think there are just some few other points to be addressed.

Major compulsory Revision:
1. You correctly did not classify patients with acute heart failure for the reasons raised by the reviewers. At this time I think it could be better to not consider at all these patients also in the descriptive analysis of the whole group. For the same reason, in the methods I think you don't need to define so extensively Acute heart failure.

2. Actually the main result of your study is the better response in term of P/F ratio in the group of exacerbation due to pneumonia. This is also the principal issue of the study discussion. For this reason I think it may be good to better clarify throughout the study the presence of a primary outcome that is the improvement of gas exchanges and the secondary outcome that is the clinical failure. This is not always clear, above all in the "Study group and outcomes" paragraph.

3. In the group C there is also one patient with pneumothorax: did you treat also this patient with NIV?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. "study groups and outcomes": the sentence "patients with pneumonia were grouped together..." there is somewhere a mistake inherited by the previous version of the paper?

2. Figure 1 Legend still refers to acute heart failure in the group A

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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