Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2
Date: 5 May 2014
Reviewer: Miguel Ferrer

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed correctly the majority of the reviewers' queries and comments and therefore the manuscript has been improved. There are a few remaining queries that deserve further clarification and comment.

1. Confusing information on the 5 patients with acute heart failure. The authors have eliminated these 5 patients from group A, and it seems that the information of these patients has not been reported in the revised version. However, there are statements in several parts of the manuscript regarding the efficacy of NIV in DILD with heart failure. The authors should clarify better if information of these 5 patients is included or not in the revised version and, if this is not included, all these statements should be revised accordingly. In some places, such as footnote of Figure 1, it seems that the original version has not been revised in this issue.

2. Association of long-term oxygen therapy (LTOT) with clinical success. Table 4 shows a significantly higher rate of LTOT among patients with clinical success; however, this is not mentioned in the results and the discussion. How can they explain this finding? This needs to be stated in the abstract, results and commented in the discussion.

3. Results, page 1, beginning of 3rd paragraph. "At six hours during NIV treatment…."? or better "Within six hours…..?"

4. Discussion, page 13, paragraph 2, line 8. Maybe the first time "in terms" appears should be deleted.

5. Table 2. Please, add the initial FiO2 for PSV, as this information is reported for CPAP.

6. Response on the lack of sample size calculation. I agree with the response, but this issue should be added in the limitations section.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests