Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of expiratory flow limitation measured by forced oscillation technique in COPD

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Reviewer: Nikoletta Rovina

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In this article, Dr. Masashi Mikamo and colleagues measured the EFL index by broadband frequency FOT in COPD patients and assessed the differences in clinical features between patients with a high and low EFL index. They hypothesized that emphysema extent and pulmonary functions would contribute independently to the degree of EFL in patients with COPD.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The univariate correlations in Table 3 showed that \( X_5 \) (EFL index) correlated positively with the mMRC scale, FRC, RV, TLC, RV/TLC, R5, and R20, and negatively with FEV1, FVC, FEV1/FVC, and FEF 25-75%, but not with age, pack-years, CAT and emphysema scores, IC, \#R5, or \#R20. mMRC and CAT show a good correlation in COPD patients, either being in stable state or in exacerbation. It is a bit strange that the analysis does not show a similar trend between these two parameters. Could you please comment on this.

2. In Table 1, it is noted that IC is not actually different between the groups of high and low EFL, and clearly these groups are significantly different as for their static volumes. How do you explain this?

3. Is there any relation of FOT measurements with NEP in COPD patients? A comment

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.