Reviewer's report

Title: Use of interrupter technique in assessment of bronchial responsiveness in normal subjects.

Version: Date: 28 August 2004

Reviewer: Alessandro Vatrella

Reviewer's report:

General
In this paper submitted by Panagiotis Panogou et al., the authors evaluated the usefulness of using an interrupter technique to assess the bronchial calibre during bronchoprovocation tests in normal subjects. They conclude that this technique is reliable and provides a valuable advantage, in comparison with the traditional PD20FEV1 method, when maximal respiratory efforts cannot be performed.

Although the topic proposed by the authors is not definitely new, this study further confirms, in a large sample of normal adult subjects, the relevant benefits of such a technique including its high sensitiveness in detecting changes in airway calibre, as well as its independence from patient cooperation and ability to perform maximal respiratory efforts.

The study protocol is well planned, and experimental methods are suitable, clearly described and accurately performed.

The results are reliable, well presented, and statistical evaluation is appropriate.

Discussion and conclusions are consistent with the results and adequately supported by data.

Writing style is clear, essential and adheres to scientific standards.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None.