Reviewer's report

Title: Directly measured secondhand smoke exposure and COPD health outcomes

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2006

Reviewer: Takashi Hajiro

Reviewer's report:

General:
The authors clearly showed that second hand smoke exposure could influence COPD severity and other health outcomes on COPD patients with no current smoking status. The authors are advised to make minor revisions on their manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions:
None.

Minor essential revisions:
Page 10, 3rd paragraph: The AQ-20 consists of 20 items with yes/no responses, and is not a short version of the SGRQ. Its discriminative properties and responsiveness was evaluated by comparing with the SGRQ and the Chronic Respiratory disease Questionnaire.
Page 12: Relationships between self-reported and directly measured SHS exposures should be mentioned in the Result, because this could explain discrepancy in their correlations with COPD-related health status.
Page 13, 3rd paragraph: â€œtertielâ€ should be a typo.
Page 28: Reference #26 was not written.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes