Reviewer’s report

Title: Software for Interpreting Cardiopulmonary Exercise Tests

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2007

Reviewer: Luc Vanhees

Reviewer’s report:

The aim of this paper was to write a computer program to assist clinicians in the interpretation of CPETs, according to the guidelines stated in the Statement on Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing.

The authors concluded that XINT has the ability to render interpretations consistent with ATS/ACCP criteria.

Although it is unquestionable that software will become more and more useful for interpreting data and facilitating medical diagnoses. The following major remark is however raised:

More in depth information would be appropriate about the integrative character of the program and the differences with a simple algorithm or a logic tree.

1. Does the software address a novel task? Alternatively, if there is already software available that performs this task, does the software outperform it in terms of speed, reliability, efficiency, or breadth of application? : Not really
2. Is it easy to use? Yes
3. Does it satisfactorily address the task or application the authors intend? Yes
4. Is the software freely available for non-commercial use (note that this is a condition of publication)? And is the availability of the software and any restrictions on use clearly stated in the manuscript? Yes
5. Does the manuscript clearly describe the problem the software is designed to address? No
6. Does the manuscript clearly describe how the software is implemented? No
7. Does the manuscript clearly describe how the software performs and its advantages / limitations over existing applications? No
8. Does the manuscript state the software’s operating requirements? Yes
9. Are the discussion and conclusions of the manuscript well balanced and adequately supported by the data? No
10. Do the title and abstract of the manuscript accurately convey what has been found? No
11. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

Conclusion
Discretionary Revisions