Reviewer's report

Title: Plasma leptin and insulin-like growth factor I levels during acute exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2008

Reviewer: Martijn A. Spruit

Reviewer's report:

With interest I have read your paper.

I have the following major and minor comments:

1. Please add page numbers.

2. Please provide name of the ethics committee and number of the approval.

3. Please explain how co-morbidities were assessed?

4. Please explain how written permission was obtained in the participants.

5. Did you directly stop the prednisolone after 7 days?

6. How many patients did receive oxygen during their stay in the hospital?

7. Did the patients already receive oral steroids before arrival at the emergency room?

8. Please specify for each test when they were performed (day of admission, etcetera...).

9. Did you also assess (high-sensitivity) CRP?

10. I am interested in the possible correlation between the change in biomarkers of systemic inflammation and change in IGF-I between D1 and D15.

11. Second paragraph discussion: please specify that IL-8 is still increased compared to healthy subjects. Please also explain why.

12. Please explain why the authors did not assess the patients 3 months after discharge. Our even a group of clinically stable patients.

13. Engelen et al also compared emphysema with chronic bronchitis.

14. Table 3 can be deleted from the manuscript (too much overlap with table 2).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.