Author's response to reviews

Title: Lung diffusing capacity for nitric oxide and carbon monoxide in relation to morphological changes as assessed by computed tomography in patients with cystic fibrosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Norton,

Enclosed please find our manuscript entitled "Lung diffusing capacity for nitric oxide and carbon monoxide in relation to morphological changes as assessed by computed tomography in patients with cystic fibrosis", which we would like to submit for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine. The manuscript is original and has not been published before or is being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors have contributed to the work presented and the manuscript enclosed.

The measurement of the combined diffusing capacity for NO (DL\textsubscript{NO}) and CO (DL\textsubscript{CO}) is currently attracting much attention, partly due to newly available technical devices as well as recently published reference values. However, the diagnostic potential of this emerging tool has to be further elucidated. We report a better correlation between DL\textsubscript{NO} and morphological changes assessed by a CT score in patients with cystic fibrosis, compared to standard lung function measurements, including FEV\textsubscript{1}. As DL\textsubscript{NO} is additionally clearly reduced when considering current reference equations, our data suggest a future role for DL\textsubscript{NO} in the non-invasive assessment of structural alterations of the lung. We are not aware of other published work comparing DL\textsubscript{NO} with CT morphology.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. H. Dressel
on behalf of all authors