Reviewer's report

Title: The Six-minute walk test is an excellent predictor of functional ambulation after total knee arthroplasty.

Version: 2 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Dana Judd

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Throughout the paper, a main piece that is missing is any discussion of pain in the TKA population. To begin, in the results section, it is mentioned that the TKA group found the test difficult, I think a reader would appreciate knowing if that was due to pain, endurance or muscle fatigue, or other reasons. Further, in the discussion section, the argument is made that pain may be one reason for inferior performance in the TKA group, however this was not measured in this study; additionally, pain is rarely an issue 12+ months after surgery. If possible, could you include reported pain levels during these tests? Also please include a discussion about the effect of pain on these tests.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. none

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Methods Section/Sample size: While this explanation of choosing a sample size appears logical, it is hard to determine if you were underpowered, overpowered or sufficiently powered to detect difference in this study. If no data was available for estimating a sample size, have you calculated power from the results of this study to determine power level?

2. Methods Section/testing protocol/procedure: the final sentence regarding 30MW test was performed after HR returned to resting levels should be moved earlier in the paragraph for clarification. Also, the notion of whether fatigue played a role in testing for either population could be addressed in the discussion section.

3. Methods Section/statistical analysis: Each model was limited to 3 independent/explanatory which were decided upon apriori. These variables could be mentioned here.

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 I have no competing interests.