Reviewer's report

Title: Criterion validation of two submaximal aerobic fitness tests, the self-monitoring Fox-walk test and the Astrand cycle test in people with rheumatoid arthritis

Version: 3
Date: 27 June 2014
Reviewer: Naglaa Ali Gadallah

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Introduction: second paragraph (Page 3, line 13): please write the meaning of the abbreviation CI before using it “(95% CI: 0.95-0.99)
2. Introduction: second paragraph (Page 3, line 15-16): Please clarify the meaning of this sentence and correct the grammar: “Moreover, the Fox-walk test is also a reliable method to monitor improvements in VO2max and the levels of the smallest detectable differences are on a group level an increase of >1 ml•kg⁻¹•min⁻¹ (or 2.4%) and on an individual level an increase of >2.8 ml•kg⁻¹•min⁻¹
3. Introduction: second paragraph (Page 3, line 17): what is the meaning of x after RA: “with RAx”
4. Methods (Page 4 line 20-22): please the following sentence needs grammar revision: “Data on demographics, disease-related characteristics, medication and PA of the remaining 27 participants, where of 22 were females, are displayed in Table 1.”
5. Assessment, third paragraph (Page 6, line 4): would you explain more the used equation as it isn't published till now.

Discretionary Revisions could be done in this study:
1. The age group of included patients ranged from 18-75 years, and the disease duration range was 7-30 years, which means that the onset of the disease in some of your patients was at the age of 11 years. This is considered as juvenile arthritis and it’s not wise to include them with adult rheumatoid patients. It would be better to be grouped as juvenile arthritis group.
2. The mean of DAS28 was 2.4, meaning that most of your patients are in remission. Did you try to test other RA patients, with higher DAS28 (2.6-3.2) meaning low disease activity, as many patients lie in this category?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests'