Reviewer's report

Title: Osteoporosis in Canadian Adult Cystic Fibrosis Patients: A Descriptive Study

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Reviewer: Larry Lands

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This manuscript is significantly improved. There are two areas that require further revision. I cannot
tell how many patients were on corticosteroids, although all 7 etidronate patients took oral steroids.
The authors state on page 8 that the majority of patients took either etidronate or steroids, but I
cannot see it in the data. Many patients on systemic steroids would skew the data towards more
osteoporosis.
The other major difficulty I have is the explanation for accepting 16 ng/ml as the lower limit for
vitamin D (discussed on page 10). As pointed out by Rucker et al (ref 19), many Canadians have
low vit D levels but this does not mean it is acceptable, as opposed to using the cutoff of 25 (to
prevent PTH elevation) or 40, as many have recommended or higher o protect against fracture. I am
concerned that accepting 16 will create a certain complacency and may be contributing to
inadequate use of vitamin D supplements that may be part of the overall bone protection strategy. I
think a fuller discussion of this portion is warranted.

Competing interests:

None declared.