Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of exercise capacity in female systemic lupus erythematosus associated pulmonary arterial hypertension patients

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Athanassios Manginas

Reviewer's report:

In this paper the authors compared data on functional parameters, hemodynamics, biomarkers and ventilation studies in 21 IPAH and 21 SLE-PAH patients and compared them to controls. They conclude that SLE-PAH patients, compared to IPAH, have better hemodynamic but worse PFT and CPET parameters, as well as worse gas exchange efficiency.

Major comments

1. The discussion section is too long, mostly due to the fact that it contains data that belong to the Results section. The Discussion should be shortened by at least 50%. It is better for the reader to see the data written in the Results. Additionally please do not duplicate writing the results in both text and Tables. It may be better to report them within your Tables/Figures.

2. There are many discrepancies in reporting statistical differences between the groups studied, when comparing text and Tables. Much of the symbols in Table 1 are not correct. Please clarify. Please ommit the symbol dash from the column IPAH in Table 1 (having it in column SLE is enough).

3. Your correlation data should better fit within the results section.

4. In the section Subjects line 19, please rephrase the sentence about FEV1/FVC % exclusion criterion.

5. In Table 1, what is the symbol ***?

6. In Table 1 and in text, please add units on your measurements

7. Please add abbreviations of Table 1
8. The authors mentioned that CI is different between IPAH and SLE-PAH, however in Table 2 the p value is 0.24. Please correct.

Minor comments
Some language editing will improve this manuscript

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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