Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 24 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Yoshihiro Fukumoto

Reviewer's report:
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Pudasaini, et al. reported that SLE PAH patients have cardiopulmonary exercise limitation with an inability to reach predicted peak heart rates, reduced oxygen uptake efficiency, compared with IPAH. The comparison between SLE PAH and IPAH is sometimes clinically important; however, this paper has only minor impact. This reviewer has some criticisms as described below.

Major comments:
1. What was the clinical question in this study? From this study, what clinical benefits are there in the clinical situation? The authors should clarify this issue.
2. There were some differences in cardiac and pulmonary function between SLE PAH and IPAH. Then, there were some difference in CPET data. Then, what would the authors like to say? Also, they should check frailty.
3. The authors should examine the time course of CPET in the aspects of each therapy. For example, they should examine if CPET can predict the efficacy of therapies, or prognosis. In the current paper, there is no clinical impact.
4. Next, the authors should also examine the time course of pulmonary function.
5. How about the evaluation of cardiac function on MRI?
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.
Yes

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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None

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