**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Targeting the DPP-4-GLP-1 pathway improves exercise tolerance in heart failure patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 Jun 2019

**Reviewer:** David Webb

**Reviewer's report:**

I thank the authors for making extensive changes to the manuscript, they have clearly attempted to address some of the concerns highlighted at initial review. Unfortunately however I find that the introduction and discussion sections of the paper have if anything become more difficult to read in this iteration. The permeating message that DPP-IV/ GLP-1 activation could somehow be used as a HF remedy through improved exercise tolerance is still not really justified. This is important since all of the studies included in this metaanalysis didn't demonstrate much effect on cardiac function anyway. Why cant it just be stated that DPP-IV / GLP-1 possible pleiotropic actions may be to improve exercise tolerance in HF and possibly other populations - justification for this is...and the significance of which is unknown.

Whilst now acknowledging that all of the studies reported 6MWT or peak O2 as exploratory outcomes - the primary outcome of these studies being cardiac function measures - this could be more explicit and the limitations of using this type of secondary data discussed

Unfortunately there is still no indication of which studies measured 6MWT or peak O2 consumption or the importance if any of that. No peak o2 consumption data was presented anyway - although at least one study reported it.

As mentioned previously the inclusion of a table pertaining to mortality and SAEs is not relevant to the research question. Whether DPP-IV /GLP-1 RA are safe for use in HF is a pertinent but different point. Consideration should be given to removing this highly selective data.

Whilst to be commended for persevering I think the authors will need some assistance in producing the next draft and I will discuss this with the editor
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Yes

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