Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between daily physical activity and aerobic fitness in adults with cystic fibrosis

Version: 2
Date: 19 February 2015
Reviewer: Narelle Cox

Reviewer's report:

In this paper the authors identify the inherent difficulties associated with assessing exercise capacity using formal CPET measures, and highlight the possibility of daily physical activity monitoring serving as a marker for submaximal exercise intensity.

The paper has been substantially re-written and its readability much improved.

Major Compulsory
Nil

Minor Essential
1- In the text (page 11, line 5) correct spelling of author name to Hebestreit.
2- In “Statistical analysis” (page 7, line 11 and 19) the abbreviation for interquartile range (IQR) appears before the full description of the term.
3- Results (Page 8, line 21) please clarify the MET value above which is considered moderate intensity – ie. Change to 4.8 METS to reflect earlier note that definitions for MET activity levels are the same as those reported by Troosters et al.
4- Results (Page 8, Line 22-23) recommend insert a comma after moderate and after the close bracket – alternatively indicate that moderate to vigorous physical activity intensity would be anything greater than 4.8 METS.
5- Discussion (Page 11, line 13) change prevent to prevents
6- Discussion (Page 13, line 12) change affects to affect

Discretionary
1- Discussion (page 11, line 20-24) – in the comparison of your physical activity findings relative to Ward et al – it would be good to postulate why your population recorded around 30 mins per day less moderate intensity physical activity than the participants in the Ward et al study eg. Effect of difference in recording period/gender make up of participant groups/ season of year during data collection etc.
2- Discussion (page 13, line 13) – the sentence “Finally, our CF patients’ peak symptom limited VO2……..) lacks context here. It might benefit from an additional sentence for clarification.
3- Discussion (page 13, line 16) consider changing “several” to “other”, alternatively, give an example of the types of factors which may contribute to reduced exercise tolerance but which you haven’t investigated.

4- Discussion (page 13, line 21)- possibly clarify, compared to whom, your healthy controls are more sedentary than.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests