Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical impact of high-attenuation and cystic areas on computed tomography in fibrotic idiopathic interstitial pneumonias

Version: 4 Date: 9 March 2015

Reviewer: Takeshi Johkoh

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Major Compulsory revisions

This manuscript has many interesting results and worth publishing in BMC Pulmonary Medicine if appropriate revise will be done.

Major Points.

1. Confirm the reproducibility of the evaluation methods using Blant-Altoman Plots, kappa statistics, and Spareman’s rank correlation.

2. Describe the pathological background of HAA, LAA, kurtosis, and skewness in fibrotic lung diseases in Discussion paying special attention to the difference of UIP and NSIP.

3. Clearly define MLD, SD-LD, kurtosis, and skewness in Methods.

4. Introduce the following manuscripts and compare your methods with ones in these manuscripts.


Minor points

1. Describe the numbers of patients with IPF, NSIP, unclassifiable IPF, respectively.

2. Depict the method for diagnosis of IPF/UIP.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests