**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Change in Forced Vital Capacity and Associated Subsequent Outcomes in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 23 Aug 2015

**Reviewer:** Daniel Kass

**Reviewer's report:**

I have been asked to review a manuscript by Dr Dendy and colleagues that reports the results of a survey of American pulmonologists performing a chart review of their patients with IPF. The authors report that longitudinal change in FVC is a strong indicator of disease activity and predicts health resource utilization. The manuscript does add to the IPF by providing evidence that supports what is currently our practice, that is prognosticating based on the change in FVC over a period of time beginning with the diagnosis of IPF. To me, this a methodologically difficult study to accomplish since there is reliance on self reporting from pulmonologists. The authors do acknowledge many of these limitations including inaccurate reporting of data. Despite these limitations, the results are "believable" as they make pathophysiologic sense--it is expected that a patient with a rapid decline in FVC would likely have increased mortality and increased HRU.

I have no issue with the methodology or with the results. My critique rests mainly with the discussion. There are several pieces of interesting observations that are not discussed. For example, Table 7 has some very interesting and clinically relevant differences that should be discussed, even if the discussion is speculative. For example, the difference in hospitalization in the subsequent period between the white and non-white patients. The authors should mention the importance of comorbidities on IPF mortality such as heart disease or unintended weight loss. There should be citation of other work in this area. I think this represents a missed opportunity to discuss and review how these data fit into the context of other prognostic studies in IPF.

**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

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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

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