

Reviewer 2 v.1

Comments to the Author

GENERAL COMMENTS

This is a very interesting study in which two different exercise tests have been compared within the frame of the TORRACTO study in patients with COPD. I have a few comments that are summarized below for the authors.

SPECIFIC MAJOR COMMENTS

1.- A flow chart depicting how the patients were selected and/or discarded and finally studied should be included in the manuscript. This will help the reader to better understand how the patient selection was conducted.

2.- For the purpose of the current investigation, did patients from all 25 centers participated in the study? Otherwise, which centers contributed with patients in the current investigation?

3.- How many patients per center were included in the TORRACTO trial and in the present investigation? This information should also be included in the flow chart.

4.- If patients were recruited from 25 centers, how were the criteria for patient recruitment and exercise test validity ensured in each center? Who supervised the exercise tests in each center? How was the homogeneity among centers ensured?

5.- Reference values used for each exercise test should be described and cited. How were comparisons of results obtained in each center made in the present study?

6.- For the purpose of the current study, in which centers was the ethical approval obtained?

MINOR COMMENTS

1.- The study hypothesis and objectives should be better defined in the abstract and in the last paragraph of the Introduction section.