Reviewer's report

Title: Age-related associations of hypertension and diabetes mellitus with chronic kidney disease

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Reviewer: Adam Whaley-Connell

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written and novel investigation from an established investigator in this area. The authors have hypothesized that hypertension and diabetes mellitus will have a stronger "association" with CKD at younger ages relative to advancing age. They have utilized the NHANES database from 1999-2004 and a cross-sectional design. The data are novel, conclusions appropriate, and in total this manuscript complements previous work already performed in this field. I have relatively few concerns and are minor in nature.

Minor

1) The authors have presented cholesterol data in the abstract that is significant at a p=0.07, but yet haven't established why this is being presented as an outcome? I would only suggest to remove this from the abstract and concentrate on presenting the prevalence ratios for proteinuria as this may be more relative to the hypothesis and support the conclusions made.

2) I presume the investigators are looking at risk factors for CKD and did include diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, proteinuria and didn't report obesity as it relates to age? Given the previous reports on the metabolic syndrome from Dr Muntner this might an interesting addition.

3) In the limitations section would also make a comment that with the cross-sectional design and the small sample size in those <50 conclusion can not be made on population attributable "risk" as well as causality.

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