To the Editor:

Please find our revised manuscript. We thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments, which allow us to publish a better manuscript.

Reviewer 1

1) We have changed the title as suggested.
2) We have added a paragraph to the discussion about balancing too many and too few referrals for AV fistulas and have quoted the two papers suggested.
3) We have eliminated any wording about “pre-dialysis”.

Reviewer 2

1) This reviewers suggestion was discretionary. The manuscript is long enough already. Nonetheless we have changed a key sentence near the end of the discussion as follows:
   
   We recommend (previous word was believe) that the factors on this list (and possibly others) need to be investigated and quantified so that new approaches can be developed to overcome them.

   We have also added the section on authors contributions, as required. We have indicated that this is an integrated review. The acronym ESRD no longer appears in the abstract and the first time it appears in the text it is preceded by the long form end stage renal disease.
We hope these small revisions are sufficient to allow for publication. Thank you for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely

David Mendelssohn, MD, FRCPC