Reviewer's report

**Title:** Citrate- vs. acetate-based dialysate in bicarbonate haemodialysis: consequences on haemodynamics, coagulation, acid-base status and electrolytes

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 11 August 2008

**Reviewer:** Jadranka Buturovic-Ponikvar

**Reviewer's report:**

Discretionary revisions

1. What was the anticoagulation during hemodialysis?
2. Did the rinsing procedure of the dialyser before hemodialysis include heparin?
3. Was the circuit (dialyser, bubble traps) evaluated for clotting after hemodialysis?
4. Please provide the name of the dialysers. Fresenius produces different kinds of polysulphone membranes (concerning flux and structure), potentially influencing influx of citrate from dialysate.
5. The dialysis procedures were relatively short (mean duration 3.5 hours, average blood flow 305 ml/min, with 6/25 patients having 3-hour hemodialysis procedures). This is lower than recommended by EBPG for hemodialysis. Could you comment on that and also could you discuss on what is expected to happen during longer hemodialysis procedures, for example 5 or 6-hour?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.