Reviewers report

Title: The Relation of C-Reactive Protein to Chronic Kidney Disease in African Americans: The Jackson Heart Study

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Reviewer: Kosaku Nitta

Reviewers report:

The manuscript by Fox et al. describes the important relation between CRP and CKD in African Americans in the US. The authors insist that there is significant correlation between CRP and CKD in the population. It is interesting to investigate contribution of inflammatory status to CKD among various races. However, at this moment, the manuscript is too much premature for publication. Although correlates analyses show significant differences between CRP high and low groups, there are several problems as mentioned below.

Major Points
1. The authors divided the participants into two groups according to serum CRP levels. But they totally ignored existence of inflammatory disease, collagen disease, and malignancy. These factors always and strongly affect CRP levels in various degrees. In the study, the participants are divided into two groups without considering the factors. Further, these factors are known strong contributors for CKD. Taken together, there is no meaning to consider correlation between CRP and CKD without considering these factors. We strongly recommend that causes to elevated CRP levels should be clearly mentioned and that the two groups should be adjusted with the factors.
2. It is difficult to understand the conclusion about the study. Do the authors conclude that measurement of circulating CRP levels should be as beneficial for assessing renal dysfunction as serum creatinine or urea nitrogen levels?

Minor Points
1. What are current hormones? Why the authors added this in criteria?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I wish to review the revised-manuscript.