Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors of one year increment of heart calcifications and survival in hemodialysis patients

Version: 1 Date: 25 November 2009

Reviewer: Aluizio B Carvalho

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

I reviewed your manuscript entitled RISK FACTORS OF ONE YEAR INCREMENT OF HEART CALCIFICATIONS AND SURVIVAL IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS. It is a very interesting paper, as it has a prospective design assessing risk factors for coronary calcification and survival in a population on hemodialysis. In fact, it is lacking in the literature studies on coronary calcification in dialysis patients which can point out risk factors in a prospective manner. The paper needs a extension revision in order to improve its quality as follows:

Major compulsory revision:

1. Authors should try to attribute the value of 1 to those patients whose Agatston unit was ZERO in the coronary tomography in order to allow the LN transformation. With this math artifact they could increase the number of patients in the analysis.

2. Table 4 should be changed by a graphic. Clear differences between delta scores as predictors of mortality cannot be seen in a table.

3. Confidence interval should be shown in logistic and multiple regression (Table 2 and 3)

4. Analysis between patients with NO coronary calcification and those with moderate to severe coronary calcification must be done. It is important to know if there is any difference regarding risk factors and mortality in calcified and non-calcified patients.

5. All and cardiovascular causes of mortality should be reported in the text.

Minor essential revisions

There are many spelling and typing mistakes in Abstract and References.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'