Author's response to reviews

Title: Predicting cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality in chronic kidney disease in Spain. The rationale and design of NEFRONA: a prospective, multicenter, observational cohort study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Confidential comments to editors

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Version: 2 Date: 26 February 2010

Comments: see over
Responses to REVIEWER:

Thank you very much for your helpful comments. In response to the points you raise:

1. The authors intend to stage CKD using the MDRD equation. It would be interesting to repeat the analyses using the CKD-epi formula which is suggested to better identify those with early CKD (stage 3A) who are at risk of complications including CVD.
   We completely agree with the reviewer that the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equation is more accurate to estimate glomerular filtration rate than the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease Study equation (MDRD). Therefore, we have added the CKD-EPI equation to the revised manuscript (page 5, lines 21-22). A new reference regarding this important point has been added (reference 16). Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

2. It would be valuable to collect data on the use of ACEi and ARB (not just antihypertensives) because of the potential effect of these drugs on vascular modelling.
   As suggested by the reviewer, we have added the use of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARB) to the revised manuscript (pages 23,24). Thank you for pointing this out to us.