Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum C-reactive protein and thioredoxin levels in subjects with mildly reduced glomerular filtration rate

Version: 1 Date: 8 November 2009

Reviewer: Peter Barany

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This observational study of subjects taking part in a health check-up program shows that inflammatory and oxidative stress markers tend to increase early in chronic kidney disease. A few question/comments:

How were the participants recruited? The selection process should briefly be described. Is this representative sample of the population in the region?

Obviously a number of exclusions were made. A chart describing how you came to the final group of subjects with reasons for exclusion may be clarifying.

Detection limits for the methods (CRP and thioredoxin) should be stated.

In table 1 the exactness of the variables male sex, smoking and eGFR should not be given with decimals.

The relatively low number in the groups do not allow to complicated multivariate methods, but you may use stepwise regression models to find the best model with your included variables.

Tables 3 and 4 needs some clarifications. Beta coefficients decribe the correlation between eGFR and CRP/thioredoxin and R2 is for the whole model.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.