Author's response to reviews

Title: Low levels of vitamin C in dialysis patients is associated with decreased prealbumin and increased C-reactive protein

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor(s):

Thank you very much for your attention to our manuscript entitled “Low levels of Vitamin C in dialysis patients is associated with decreased prealbumin and increased C-reactive protein” for the second time. The following are our responses to the kind reviewers.

QUESTION: In fact the confounding factors included are not sufficient to guarantee the independence of the correlation between vitamin C levels and CRP levels. Thus, the inclusion in the regression model of variables associated to volume status (at least blood pressure), metabolic acidosis, use of statins, and modality of hemodialysis (conventional, HFD and HDF) could provide more consistency to the study and its results.

ANSWER: To this question, we rebuild the multiple regression models for the correlation between vitamin C levels and hsCRP levels in the manuscript, in which we added blood pressure, metabolic acidosis, use of statins, and modality of hemodialysis (conventional, HFD and HDF) as confounding factors just as professor Pasqual Barretti recommended, and we think it is very important.

QUESTION: It of note that the authors have observed differences in the CRP levels between HDF and HD.

ANSWER: To this question, we added the influence of different modalities on the plasma vitamin C levels and differences in the hsCRP levels between HDF and HD in the part of discussion.

QUESTION: Additionally, it was not adequate to include comments about other paper (ref 44) in the Conclusion section. The authors should consider other place in the manuscript for that.

ANSWER: To this question, we have already adjusted the position of reference 44-46 from the part of conclusion to the part of discussion in the manuscript.

QUESTION: Finally, the authors did not state if this study has any limitation.

ANSWER: To this question, we have brought into focus that the cross-sectional characteristic is the limitation of this study. Now, we are doing a cross-over designed prospective study in the stable dialysis patients to make sure if taking vitamin C supplements could improve the inflammatory status caused by oxidative stress in these population.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration again.

Sincerely yours,

Li Zuo.