Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 23 January 2011

Reviewer: Pasqual Barretti

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper approaches an interesting and relatively low studied issue in dialysis field, as the role of vitamin C on inflammation. However, some aspect need to modified and clarified to improve the paper quality and become it suitable to publication as follow:

1. The introduction is too resumed; the authors need to state in more details the context of micro-inflammatory status in uremia. They emphasized only the role of oxidative stress related to membrane-blood contact. Several other factors could be associated to inflammation genesis in these patients as metabolic acidosis, volume overload, non sterile dialysate, glucose dialysate in PD patients, etc. On the other hand the authors do not mention previous results on oxidative stress, its treatment and relationship with vitamin C in dialysis patients, although the number of publication was limited. For example:


2. On exclusion criteria it is necessary to state the time period considered to exclusion after a infection episode. Also, other criteria need to approach, as chronic inflammatory diseases (COPD, lupus, hepatitis, positive HIV serology, etc); use of central venous catheter, tobacco use, etc.

3. The authors need to state the criteria for variables inclusion in the multiple regression model (all confounding factors, demographics, those with significance in univariate analysis (level?)). Also, important confounding factors need to include in the analysis to evaluate its influence on inflammations, evidencing or not the independent role of vitamin C as inflammation predictor, e.g. Serum bicarbonate, blood pressure, statins use, type of hemodialysis membrane.

Minor essential revisions:

Few mistakes need to corrected, as use of spearman instead Spearman;
absence of statement about A, B or C groups in table2.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'