Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Pasqual Barretti

Reviewer's report:

In the previous review I addressed three questions to authors. Regarding the first, about the introduction to be much resumed, the authors have answered adequately and the changes made in the text have improved it; on the second about exclusion criteria also the authors have answered appropriately and the changes in Material and Methods have contributed to improvement of the paper. However, regarding the third question the methodological approach has remained insufficient to answer the main objective of the study. The authors have stated: “We just wanted to know the relationship between vitamin C and inflammatory markers, causes of chronic inflammation were ignored”. The main question is not this, in case it would not necessary to use a multiple regression model, an approach to analyze if correlations between variables are independent. 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. It of note that the authors have observed differences in the CRP levels between HDF and HD. Alternatively the authors could state that these data are not available and include the lack of information about them as a limitation of the study.

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.

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

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