Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between blood pressure and decline in renal function and time to start of renal replacement therapy in pre-dialysis patients: a cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 6 June 2011

Reviewer: Kunitoshi Iseki

Reviewer’s report:

Authors analyzed the association between blood pressure and decline in renal function and time to start of RRT in pre-dialysis patients using a 547 patients’ cohort. They confirmed the importance of BP control which is well known (Bakris G. Am J Kidney Dis 2002). Unfortunately, other predictor of progression such as proteinuria was not evaluated. For this reviewer, it is interesting to see the incidence of RRT is much larger than death rate which is contradicting the previous report (Keith et al. Arch Intern Med 2004). Control of BP was poor despite care by specialists. Why was this? It would be interesting to refer the previous report from Japan (Nakayama M, et al. Clin Exp Nephrol 2010).

Minor

1. Table 2. Are there any differences in the number of anti-hypertensive drug types between the groups?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.