Reviewer's report

Title: Duration of temporary catheter use for hemodialysis: an evaluation of renal units in Brazil.

Version: 2 Date: 31 July 2011

Reviewer: Satoshi Morimoto

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In the present study, BONFANTE,, G. M. et al. evaluated factors associated with the time between the beginning of hemodialysis with a temporary catheter and the placement of the first arteriovenous fistula in Brazil. They found that 57% of the patients maintained a temporary catheter until censured event. Among the patients who underwent fistula in the period of the study, 18.2% maintained the temporary catheter for more than three months until the fistula creation. They identified five statistically significant factors associated with the longer time until the first fistula: higher age; having hypertension and cardiovascular diseases as cause of chronic renal disease; residing in capitals cities and certain regions in Brazil and the type of renal unit. They concluded that monitoring the provision of arteriovenous fistula in renal units could improve the care given to patients with end stage renal disease.

Major points
- The results of this study do not seem to help to reduce the use of temporary catheters.
- More information about geographical features in Brazil is required to help understanding of the content of this study for the readers.

Minor points
- There are several grammatical errors that need to be corrected.

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.