Reviewer's report

Title: The Current Status of Chronic Kidney Disease in India: First Report of the Indian CKD Registry

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Reviewer: Patrik Finne

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The authors report the first result of the Indian CKD Registry. During the years 2006-2010 more than 50,000 patients were registered. Patients were recruited regardless of stage of CKD, which means that even patients with very mild kidney disease (stage 1) were recruited. The distribution of stages presented is very different from population-based stage distribution reported in other countries. Typically stage 5 is the tip of the iceberg, with only about 1% of all CKD patients. However, the authors do not present population-based results, but rather a patient population referred to hospital because of CKD. Consequently it is expected that more severe cases are over-represented and about half of the CKD patients being at stage 5. Patients with stage 5 CKD are probably best represented in this study because they are most likely to seek help because of the kidney disease. For the earlier stages, the registry appears to cover only a very small part of the prevalent cases in the population. Hence, it would be good to focus on the results of CKD stage 5 patients. The author also mentioned the rate of RRT in this patient group is about 40%. Not all patients with CKD stage 5 need dialysis immediately, but apparently some patients who would need dialysis do not get it.

The authors mention many limitations of the studies appropriately. One limitation is the voluntary nature of reporting to the registry. Still, it would be valuable to get an estimate of the coverage of the registry. 188 hospitals reported. How many hospitals are there in India?

I think the study provides novel information on the status of CKD in India. This is very important. Especially the main finding, that one third of CKD (Stage 5) in India is caused by diabetic nephropathy is useful and not affected by the lack on information on the background population. In the future it would be important to establish areas with the coverage of the registry is very high, so that information on the general population could be utilized to calculate incidence and prevalence of CKD (Stage 5). This would give an estimate of the actual burden of CKD.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.