Reviewer's report

Title: Serum vaspin levels are reduced in Japanese chronic hemodialysis patients

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Reviewer: Bengt Rippe

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this study recently found that ~7% of the Japanese population, whether healthy, or on HD, or diabetic, show a minor allele sequence (A) of rs77060950, coupled to higher levels of the visceral adipose tissue-derived serine proteinase inhibitor (vaspin), while a majority of the population have low values. Vaspin is an adipokine, like leptin and adiponectin: The fact that vaspin levels may be genetically high (in 7% of the population), complicates the use of vaspin as a marker of fat mass and insulin resistance. Anyway, HD-patients who do not show genetically determined increases in vaspin, generally show lower vaspin values than a control population, as shown in this study. Creatinine levels were found to be negatively correlated with vaspin levels. Whether this is due to reduced fat mass is not known. It is speculated that vaspin may exert an insulin sensitizing action and anti-inflammatory properties in obesity. Hence, lower vaspin levels may link to adverse cardiovascular outcomes.

Major compulsory revision:

This is basically an interesting paper, which, however, is hard to read due to linguistic problems. The paper really needs thorough linguistic revision. Furthermore, the rationale of measuring vaspin in HD-patients is not clear. Is a low vaspin plasma concentration really related to worse outcome in HD-patients? In case vaspin really has some predictive power, high-vaspin patients (7% of the population) should be excluded from using this marker. The question is, however, can the findings in the Japanese population be extrapolated to other populations?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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