Reviewer's report

Title: Association of response to hepatitis B vaccination and the survival in dialysis patients

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Reviewer: Gabriel Almroth

Reviewer's report:

1. Abstract: Background: Line 2; As described recently..
2. Abstract-Results: Line 2; There was no significant association between immune response (not difference)
3. Abstract-Background: Line 3; followed by infection as second cause. Line 18; Proneness to infection (not easily infection)
4. Methods: The retrospective design of the study is of importance and similar prospective studies are suggested in the discussion part.
Reference numbers 8-10 are written in small, why?
5. Statistical analysis: The statistical tests were performed with an established program and the models chosen are motivated in text and figures.
6. Results:
The most common cause of mortality was (unusually to the general population of dialysis patients) infection instead of cardiovascular death and the cause of death could be given in more detail for the 19 patients who died from infection. As discussed malnutrition and age were associated with increased mortality. The results of the predictive model of infection-cause mortality in dialysis patients shown in table 3 and figure 2 are very interesting and deserves publication.
7. The discussion part is well written. Why are the references 11-13 again given in small types? Examples of language errors: In the present study instead of in present study and Recent review has pointed out instead of has point out. Also In the last parts of the discussion "causing instead of casing and "Interestingly we did not find any associations between... instead of the associations". The dysregulations of various cytokines might be better language than deregulations. High levels of IL-2 instead of higher levels of IL-2 etc. From the findings above rather than from above findings. In the study of Kimmel et al they suggest that better T-cell function rather than only "better T-cell function..."
Dyslipidemia is spelled wrongly and regarding the infection-cause mortality is better than regard the infection-cause mortality. Our present findings rather than our present finding.
8. References, tables and figures are all acceptable.

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.