Reviewer's report

Title: Seroprevalence of Streptococcal Inhibitor of Complement (SIC) suggests association of streptococcal infection with chronic kidney disease.

Version: 3 Date: 17 April 2013

Reviewer: Jonathan M Chemouny

Reviewer's report:

The authors answered my comments adequately but I still have some minor suggestions.

The table summarizing the clinical data meets my expectations, but it could be further improved by displaying the results of the appropriated statistic tests (t-test or t-test like and fisher's test) comparing CKD patients and ESRD patients to healthy controls and CKD patients to ESRD patients.

Moreover, disease durations may be different between CKD and ESRD patients. This should be tested. If different, this variable should be included in the logistic regression.

Beside, the difference in seroprevalence in CKD patients and healthy control SIC is not significant after adjustment to age and sex (as 95%CI includes the neutral value). This should be stated in the text and "p" should be displayed as most 95%CI might be skipped by the readers.

Finally, I am still in disagreement with the authors concerning the use of the expression "risk factor". "Risk marker" may be more appropriated.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.