Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology and Risk Factors of Chronic Kidney Disease in India - Results from the SEEK (Screening and Early Evaluation of Kidney Disease) Study

Version: 4 Date: 20 December 2012

Reviewer: Claudine T Jurkovitz

Reviewer’s report:

We thank the authors for their revisions of the manuscript “Review of the manuscript “Epidemiology and risk factors of chronic kidney disease in India- Results from the SEEK Study” and recognize a major improvement since their first submission.

Several points however remain to be considered:

1) Major compulsory revisions

1.1 As discussed previously, because the prevalence of risk factors such as hypertension is higher in SEEK than in the general population, SEEK is not a representative sample of the Indian population. Therefore SEEK does not assess the prevalence of CKD in India. The first sentence of the discussion should be revised accordingly. The authors recognize in their answers that the prevalence of hypertension in SEEK is higher than in the general population. What about diabetes? In any case, this information should be provided in the discussion and the prevalences compared.

1.2. The prevalence of CKD in NHANES, reported in reference 20 (JAMMA, 2007; 298: 2038-2047) is 13.1% therefore lower than the 17.2% reported in SEEK. The statement regarding this study (Discussion page 15) should be changed. Conversely, among NHANES participants with self-reported hypertension, self-reported diabetes, or family history of hypertension, stroke, or diabetes, the prevalence of CKD was 17.6% (Ref: 21; Am J Kidney Dis. 2008; 51: S3-12)

1.3. The authors acknowledge that the Bayer’s Multistix 10 detects urine protein however the measurement of albuminuria is still mentioned in the methods, the results and the tables. Albuminuria should be changed to Proteinuria where ever appropriate in this manuscript.

2) Minor essential revisions

2.1. Page 10- Statistical analysis: Please replace the sentence “We performed spearman correlation analysis to study the relationship between the presence of CKD and multiple covariates by “We performed spearman correlation analyses to study the relationship between GFR and other variables. Covariates refer to variables in multiple regression models.
2.2. A convenience cohort is not more “real world” than a random sample of the population. This expression is misused here (page 15)

2.3. The result described in the discussion on page 16: “In our cohort, 10.9% complained of burning urine suggestive of a recent urinary tract infection” has not been reported in the results section. Results should not be introduced in the discussion.

2.4. Table 3. The unit for hemoglobin is not mg/dL but g/dL. Several of the biological characteristics in table 3 do not have any units.

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

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’