Reviewer's report

Title: Associations of fetuin-A and osteoprotegerin with arterial stiffness and early atherosclerosis in chronic hemodialysis patients

Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2013

Reviewer: Giovanni Pertosa

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In the present manuscript Pateinakis et al present data on the Associations of fetuin-A and osteoprotegerin with arterial stiffness and early atherosclerosis in chronic hemodialysis patients, an important clinical problem in the daily care of hemodialysis patients. Both serum levels of fetuin-A and osteoprotegerin correlated with PWV and cIMT; however in multilinear regression analysis the association between cIMT and fetuin-A and osteoprotegerin lost statistical significance after adjustment for age.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The major criticism is that the study (and the results of the study) is absolutely not original; similar results, in fact, have been obtained by Shroff RC, et al (NDT, 2008) and Speer G et al (NDT, 2008), as reported by the same authors in the discussion session. Moreover, data on long-term overall survival in this setting of patients are lacking.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.