Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 6 April 2013

Reviewer: Adrian Covic

Reviewer’s report:

Although the findings are not entirely new, this is a nicely designed and written study, confirming the role of vascular calcification biochemical markers, fetuin-A and osteoprotegerin, on vascular disease in ESRD patients. I have only a few minor comments:

1. How were the patients selected – were these all the patients in your dialysis unit?
2. The descriptions of the PWV and IMT measurement techniques need references.
3. In Discussions and/or Introduction, the authors should (more or less briefly) discuss the physiological mechanisms by which fetuin-A and OPG can alter the vascular structure and function; this would help readers understand the significance of their findings. Furthermore, in the Discussions, several more recent studies, from the past few years, should be mentioned (e.g. Janda et al, Morena et al, Lee et al, Ozkok et al, Koo et al, Mesquita et al, Osorio et al etc). An updated PubMed search is recommended.
4. A few typos should be corrected. Also, a “Patients” subtitle should be placed under “Methods”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.