Reviewer’s report

Title: Baseline characteristics and prevalence of cardiovascular disease in newly visiting or referred chronic kidney disease patients to nephrology centers in Japan: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2013

Reviewer: Rulan Parekh

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present the cross sectional data of a recruited cohort of CKD in Japan. There is no specific study question but mostly a descriptive paper describing the population. The manuscript is well written and presented.

Major Comments

1) The study is interesting as it will be important for future international comparisons of CKD progression to other cohorts. The paper is presented as an independent analyses for prevalent cardiovascular, however, it does not provide unique information in terms of outcomes and analyses. Nonetheless, it is important to understand the methods of the specific cohort study in terms of clinical data collection, hence it may be more valuable to restructure as a methods paper.

2) There is limited discussion of the participant selection, target population, power, sample size etc. It would be important to provide that data to understand the generalizability of the study. Furthermore, it is not clear if the goal of the study was to recruit participants representative of Japan ie across regions age, gender etc. Were the 16 centers different in terms of academic vs clinical centers? How are patients recruited from medical clinics or nephrology clinics? What data are collected?

3) It is not clear why stage 5 was included in the study population and the rationale for the inclusion needs to be presented. Also, the use of the eGFR equation among the Japanese should be further described especially across the spectrum of GFR.

Minor Comments

1) There is a discrepancy of the number of centers ie 16 in the abstract and 15 in the text.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

None