Reviewer's report

Title: Age dependent parathormone level and different CKD-MBD treatment practice of dialysed patients in Hungary - results from nationwide clinical audit

Version: 3 Date: 15 April 2013

Reviewer: Bjorn Meijers

Reviewer's report:

The authors addressed my concerns raised during initial review. Critical appraisal of the current version of the manuscript gave rise to some additional questions, which I believe will make the manuscript more valuable. It would therefore be my preference to challenge the authors asking for a second revision.

Major compulsory revisions

One of the main findings of the study is that older patients are less likely to be treated with CKD-MBD related drug therapy. Although not explicitly stated, this might be interpreted as under-treatment of older patients. Instead, it can simply be a reflection of the higher prevalence of older patients meeting MBD-target values and thus a lesser need of therapy in this patient group. The available data would allow the authors to easily differentiate on this subject. Please elaborate on this.

Age and diabetic status independently are associated with PTH. Please perform multivariate linear regression analyses exploring the effect of these variables against other relevant variables.

Minor compulsory revisions

Abstract: <65 and 65+. Please use homogeneous notation

Abstract (results). Diabetes (DM)... Diabetes

Abstract: Last sentence ‘Drug prescription patterns are greatly influenced by strict rules of medication coverage.’ While this conclusion is valid, the current study does not support this statement.

Background: ‘we were going to analyze’ Please rephrase

Patients and methods: I would suggest adding the type of PTH assay used.

Patients and methods: ‘we choosed..’ please change to ‘we chose’

Results, paragraph 2: The authors state that, although statistically significant, between-group differences of laboratory values are not relevant from a clinical perspective. I agree on this with respect to the serum calcium and phosphate values, but not with the observed lower PTH values in the older patient group, which is one of the main findings of this study. I suggest rephrasing.
Results: ‘This unfortunate prescription pattern mirrors the special coverage rules of the Hungarian health insurance’. This statement should be in the discussion section.

Discussion: Section on hemodialysis vs. peritoneal dialysis patients should be in the results section.

Discussion: Please add a sentence on the various PTH assays used to the limitations of the study.

Figure 1: >50 needs to be changed in <50

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'