Reviewer’s report

Title: Canadian Society of Nephrology Survey confirms clinical equipoise for using warfarin in hemodialysis patients with atrial fibrillation

Version: 2 Date: 27 September 2012

Reviewer: Guido Finazzi

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This study reports a survey completed by a representative group of members of the Canadian Society of Nephrology, aimed at identifying the degree of uncertainty in prescribing warfarin in hemodialysis patients with atrial fibrillation. The majority of respondents agreed that clinical equipoise exists in this setting and are willing to enroll their patients in a randomized clinical trial that would be highly relevant to inform their practice. The survey is well designed and the results interesting although not unexpected. I have only a couple of minor revisions to recommend:

Essential Revision
Discussion, lines 7-8. The statement that "previous gastrointestinal bleed was perceived as higher risk than a patient at risk for falls" is not in agreement with Table 1, cases 4 and 5, and with Results. Please, reconcile.

Discretionary revision
A short discussion of the novel oral anticoagulants (i.e. Dabigatran, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban) might be worthwhile, just to say that these new drugs were not studied in hemodialysis patients so far and that warfarin is expected to remain to standard of anticoagulation in this particular clinical setting also in the next years.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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