Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-term effects of phosphate binders on pre-dialysis serum bicarbonate in end-stage kidney disease patients on maintenance haemodialysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Long-term effects of phosphate binders on pre-dialysis serum bicarbonate

Dear editors,

This study was an advanced trainee project of ZT for nephrology training of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). ZT collected the data, drafted the article, reviewed the literature and revised it critically. Data from this study were presented by ZT at 47th Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) annual scientific meeting; September 18 through 21; 2011; Adelaide, Australia.

AW did statistical interpretation and provided valuable inputs in the draft. EP provided valuable inputs in study design, data collection and literature review. JB collected the data of Melbourne Health. SC provided valuable inputs in data collection and literature review. CN provided valuable inputs in study design, data collection, literature review, revision of the draft. All authors have read the manuscript and meet the criteria for authorship.

CN is an advisory board member for Amgen Australia. EP has received a research grant from Shire Australia.

This work is not under active consideration for publication, has not been accepted for publication, nor has it been published, in full or in part (except in abstract form). I confirm that the study was approved by Melbourne Health and Western Health Ethics committees.

1 out of five tables in my manuscript is reproduced from another source and authorisation from the author is already obtained.

With best regards,

Zaw Thet (Signed electronically on 14th October 2012)