Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated troponin I levels and cardiac-specific mortality in stable hemodialysis patients

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Reviewer: Fabrizio Grosjean

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The paper by Alam et al. reports the results of a single-centre observational study involving 133 patients focused on the evaluation of the association of troponin I levels and cardiac specific mortality in hemodialysis patients. Interestingly TNI but not CRP, was independently associated with cardiac specific death. Even though this is partially a confirmatory study of previous findings it underlines that a low grade chronic inflammation evaluated by serum CRP is surprisingly not involved in cardiac mortality in this particular population where, on the contrary, the inflammatory state is thought to play an important role in mortality and morbidity.

Minor essential revisions

1) Low grade inflammation is involved in development of diabetes mellitus and likely in its complications. Surprisingly the authors show that also diabetes mellitus, such as TNI, is independently associated to cardiac specific mortality and is associated with higher levels of TNI. This finding should be further discussed in the manuscript.

2) Please specify in the text when data reported in supplementary materials are cited

Discretionary revisions

I would suggest to change the title in : Elevated TNI levels but not low grade chronic inflammation markers are associated with cardiac specific mortality in stable hemodialysis patients

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.