Reviewer's report

Title: Vascular calcification on plain radiographs is associated with carotid intima media thickness, malnutrition and cardiovascular events in dialysis patients: a prospective observational study

Version: 2 Date: 10 January 2013

Reviewer: Shahrzad Ossareh

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract:
• This sentence needs grammatical correction
Conditions increasing to adequate hemoglobin level maybe retard progression of VC in dialysis patients.#
Conditions which increase hemoglobin level, may retard progression of VC in dialysis patients.

Results:
• This sentence needs grammatical correction.
Intact parathyroid hormone, calcium, and phosphorous levels were not significantly different in patients with and without significant VC. #
Mean levels of intact parathyroid hormone, calcium, and phosphorous were not significantly different in patients with and without significant VC.
• Change "VCs " to "VC score" in this paragraph, as in other parts of the manuscript.
Nineteen (42.2%) of 45 patients with AAC scores < 5 had significant VCs on other parts, 14 of 40 patients (35.0%) with hand and pelvis VCs < 3 had significant VCs on other parts, and 12 (31.6%) of 38 patients without medial artery calcification of the feet had significant VCs on other parts.
• These sentences are vague and need some improvement. I have a suggestion below.
We found increasing hemoglobin over a 2-year observation period in patients with VC non-progression on plain radiographs without significant differences of iron replacement and erythropoietin dose. Therefore, overall condition increasing hemoglobin with similar iron and erythropoietin supplementations may be contrary to erythropoietin resistance and VC formation caused by inflammation, oxidative stress, etc.#
We found increasing levels of hemoglobin over a 2 year observational period in patients with non- progression of VC, which was not related to the doses of supplemental iron or erythropoietin. This may indicate that conditions in favour of increase in hemoglobin level, such as lack of inflammation and oxidative stress,
may be also supportive against VC.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'