Reviewer's report

**Title:** The use of absolute values improves performance of estimation formulae: A retrospective cross sectional study.

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 8 September 2013

**Reviewer:** Sandra Silveiro

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a retrospective single centre cross sectional study of 185 patients that aimed to compare the performance of CKD-EPI and MDRD estimation formula with a reference method (51Cr-EDTA), expressed in ml/min, instead of ml/min per 1.73 m².

I would suggest additional analyses of data.

**Major compulsory reviews:**

1) Although the authors describe inclusion and exclusion criteria in a previous related paper, it would be useful to rewrite it in the present study.

2) In the patients characteristics the range of GFRs >110ml/min is not right.

3) Bland & Altman analyses is the recommended way to compare methods, so the authors should consider employing this method, and the graphic presentation of data would be important.

4) It would be interesting to analyze the performance of equations after removing the BSA normalization factor and stratifying by age ranges.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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