Reviewer’s report

Title: Circulating Dendritic Cell Precursors in Chronic Kidney Disease: A Cross-sectional Study

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2013

Reviewer: Bente Jespersen

Reviewer's report:

This study on numbers and types of dendritic cells in chronic renal failure is of interest although mechanisms can not be inferred.

However some major points could be raised:

1) Why did the authors not include a control group matched by age and sex to increase the strength and clearness of this study.

2) Interesting associations are observed, but the role of dendritic cells was not studied as might be expected when reading the abstract

3) It is not correct that "patients with CKD sustain 2.5 times more likely a first CV event" – the increase of risk is highly dependent on the CKD grade and may be much higher. Thus the CKD grade referred to should be specified.

4) The introduction can be shortened and focused

5) Relative numbers of DC’s are not given in Figure 2 and the result description is a bit confusing

6) The discussion will be more clear with inclusion of a matched control group

Minor points:

1) The meaning of respectively after a P value as given several times is not evident

2) The original ref referred to in ref 4 rather than ref 4 would be more appropriate

3) The specific solution used to lyse the erythrocytes should be given

4) Were the cells classified according to CD56, CD3 and CD4

5) Was the calculation of DCP to WBC performed in individual samples?

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

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

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