Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of prior CKD management in a renal care network on early outcomes in incident dialysis patients: a prospective observational study

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Version: 2 Date: 9 July 2012

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Dear Dr Henderson, executive editor of BMC Nephrology,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript entitled: “Impact of prior CKD management in a renal care network on early outcomes in incident dialysis patients”.

After receiving your message, we made the following modifications:
- line 5, page 5: “The local review board approved the study protocol.” was changed to “The local ethical committee (Comité de protection des personnes SUD-EST IV, Lyon, France) approved the study protocol.”
- After this modification, we added the following sentence:” The committee did not recommend obtaining informed consent from patients enrolled in this study because the data were analysed anonymously.”

The results presented in this manuscript have not been published previously, in whole or in part, except in abstract form. The manuscript is not currently being considered for publication in another journal.

This observational study deals with the question of how optimized the care to the patients with chronic kidney disease. Our hypothesis is that the dedicated renal care network allows enhancing renal care, particularly by delivering planned and coordinated care. To our knowledge, only one study reported the impact of this kind of renal care delivery and we believe that our positive experience in this field should be reported in order to develop more efficient care for the patients with CKD, and thus improve their outcomes.

The authors of the manuscript declare that they have no competing interests.

Looking forward to reading your comments on this manuscript,

Yours sincerely,

Nicolas Rognant MD, PhD and Maurice Laville, MD.