Reviewer's report

Title: Depression in Chronic Kidney Disease Patients

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2012

Reviewer: Ken Farrington

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. More detail of patient selection methodology should be supplied - please amplify what is meant by "cross-sectional, correlational design with purposive sampling"

2. More detail is required on Taiwan Depression Questionnaire - in particular the relevance of cutoff point of 19 used to identify the "depressed" from the "non-depressed". Is this the cutoff point used in the general population?. When using the BDI it is customary to use a higher cutoff point for patients with advanced kidney disease to allow for criterion contamination by higher symptom burden in these patients. Could this be the reason for finding a higher prevalence of depressive symptoms in those with more advanced CKD in this study? These points might be addressed in the discussion. It is also worth emphasising that the questionnaire defines the degree of depressive symptoms and should not be used to imply a diagnosis of depression.

3. More detail is required on the sleep questionnaire used - in particular what is meant by "how often they awakened suddenly from sleep". It would be useful in discussing the limitations of the study to comment on the validity of the sleep questionnaire.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Married and divorced patients are considered together - state whether separating them or including divorced with singles make any difference to findings?

2. State basis of power calculation

3. Add total numbers of depressed and non-depressed to table 2

4. The use of percentage figures in parentheses in Table 2 is inconsistent and should be reviewed.

5. p7 para2 line 3 presumably "marital" not "martial"

6. Review tenses in 1st sentence p 11

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

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