Reviewer's report

Title: Oral disease in adults treated with hemodialysis: Prevalence, predictors, and association with mortality and adverse cardiovascular events: The rationale and design of the ORAL Diseases in hemodialysis (ORAL-D) study, a prospective, multinational, longitudinal, observational, cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 12 February 2013

Reviewer: Casper P. P Bots

Reviewer's report:

This scientific paper is a study protocol of a large scale study which has already started. Since it contains a lot of information it is necessary in my opinion to publish this on forehand. It is an interesting topic and for the first time that such a large scale study had been carried out in the field of renal disease and oral health.

Some minor essential points for improvement of the manuscript:
- a causal relationship is proposed between oral disease and poor health in dialysis. Does scientific evidence exist for this relationship?
- the abstract is written in the future, while is had happened in the past (july 2010-february 2012), please change:... will asses in ... had assesed and so on.
- the study protocol explores 6 questions:
  add 1) are controll patients enrolled in this study, since the study takes place in many different countries. It enriches the scientific quality of this study if the authors do
  add 2) correlations will be explored between hd patients and clinical factors. Will this be a fishing experiment? Which clinical factors will be explored.
  add 6) an association between periodontal etc and premature mortality will be explored, do the authors expect a biological and logical causal relationship between one of the oral health variables.

Page 6: experiences of xerostomia :--> xerostomia is already an experience, this word can be deleted

Page 7: since several countries will be included, a statistical analysis should be carried out to excluded the effect of the country on the oral health

How do the authors make sure that the intra-oral assesment is calibrated?

Why did the authors decide to use stimulated saliva instead of unstimulated saliva (which is more representative for the feelings of oral dryness)

Figure 2: the Xerostomia Inventory is not the original questionnaire. Please add information that the XI questionnaire was altered and adapted. This raises the question if the questionnaire needs to be validated again.
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