Reviewer's report

Title: Is the staple diet eaten in Medawachchiya, Sri Lanka, a predisposing factor in the development of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology? - An experience from urinary beta two microglobulin measurement

Version: 1 Date: 31 March 2014

Reviewer: ranil gajanayaka

Reviewer's report:

1. Urinary Beta 2 Microglobulin (B2M) is highly unstable at room temperature especially in acidic environment. (Urine pH <6). Authors do not describe how they collect these urine samples, what was the urine pH and how they maintain the cold chain. Without fulfilling that condition, authors cannot say that healthy sample had normal B2M.

2. Urine B2M level increase with any protenuric CKD and the amount of B2M increase with the CKD stages. It could have been nice if it was compared with patients with CKD due to other etiologies

3. Based on their dietary recall results, over 90% of both groups had rice for 3 meals. They haven't looked into the source of water they drank. I don't think they could use the word "dietary pattern" at the conclusion. So the conclusion may need to be changed according to the research questions.

Strengths

1. repeating the 24-hour dietary recall in 3 occasions in 6 months interval definitely minimize recall biases.

2. Presentation looks very clear and precise.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.