Reviewer's report

Title: Dialysis for End Stage Renal Disease Financed through the Brazilian National Health System, 2000 to 2012

Version: 2
Date: 15 April 2014

Reviewer: Tanushree Banerjee

Reviewer's report:

The authors have described the trends in incidence and prevalence and the epidemiological profile of patients with ESRD who are receiving publically financed dialysis in Brazil. I have certain comments on this work.

Major Revisions

Introduction

The authors talk about the feasibility of assessing disease burden and performing economic analyses via Brazil's national health system. But the objective of the study has no mention of it. It would be better to drop it from the introduction.

Reference required in the first para 'The number of people......................in the proportion being elderly.

A reference is required for the Outpatient Information System.

Methods

I would recommend to re-write this section as it is not very clear. There must be more details on the age categories chosen, the racial/ethnic groups defined and the skin color for the different races. Secondly, the authors should provide a justification for the purpose of studying seropositivity of HIV, HBv, and HCV.

This has not been mentioned either in the introduction or the aims and it appears that the authors simply decided to see it without having any predetermined objective.

Results

The age groups seem to be all mixed up. The group 46-64 does not match with that in Table 1. Similarly they have mentioned about the <44 age group. As per the table the age group should include 44 but the text implies otherwise.

The authors have mixed the race and color categories.

The authors have reported a very high percentage (42.3%) of people in whom no specific cause has been defined for renal failure.

The annual increase in the prevalence must be reflected in the table. It is hard to follow otherwise.

For the trend in the incidence of dialysis, it would be better to have the period defined in categories. Table 3 and 4 should be presented in multiple categories of years such as 2000-2004, 2005-2008, and 2009-2012 for each region and
age-group.
The numbers for seropositivity of HBV and HCV do not match with what the figure represents.
Figure 3 is same as figure 2 and is redundant.

Discussion
Overall it reads well.
The authors have mentioned that the total number of cases needing financed renal dialysis will increase. If this is the case then what efforts do the authors feel be made to reduce the costs or delay the progression in the patients.

Figure 1
Needs explanation for studying the seropositivity of HIV, and hepatitis virus.

Table 2
Add a column to reflect the percentage change in each year from baseline.

Table 3
The categories of year are overlapping.

The authors can present their results stratifying for the traditional risk factors of diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease known to cause ESRD.

Minor
In the introduction, there should be a decimal point instead of comma in 84.9%.
In the discussion on page 10, second para last line there is repeat of words.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.