Reviewer’s report

Title: The Association between Race and Individual Level Income on Mortality among those with Moderate Chronic Kidney Disease

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Reviewer: Tazeen Jafar

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Interesting work by et al on national cohort REGARDS evaluating the relationship between SES and mortality and ESRD among patients with CKD.

The results are not surprising. It would be interesting to evaluate the factors contributing to high mortality among CKD patients with low income.

One major comment is to account for baseline blood pressure levels (in addition to presence of hypertension) and albuminuria in the adjusted models assessing the relationship between income and mortality. Please present a separate Model in Table 2 after accounting for these predictors.

Death, the primary outcome, was ascertained through telephone based follow-up. Who provided the information? In what proportion was it validated by national registration record? What was done in case data were not verified?

Low income alone has been shown to be associated with high mortality in the US population. Albeit it is only one component of SES. Although the investigators have accounted for neighborhood/county poverty score and gini index, and education level, several other factors contribute to socioeconomic positioning eg occupation, type of housing, access to resources. Some communities would have programs for the un-insured providing opportunities for better control of risk factors for CKD progression. These elements are not captured in the analysis which is a limitation. Please discuss.

Did the investigators rely on self report of individual income? Has this measure been validated? Please discuss.

I’m also not clear whether the investigators ascertained “household income” as implied in the text or “Individual income” as stated in the title. Please clarify.

How was home BP measured? Which device was used? Were these standardized measurements?

In Table 2, in the footnotes please clarify what co-morbidities were accounted for in the Model 3

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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'