Reviewer's report


Version: 2
Date: 15 May 2014
Reviewer: Christina Wyatt

Reviewer's report:

-The results do not support the authors’ conclusion that GFR is more important than UACR as a predictor of CVD as suggested in the abstract, results, and discussion; in fact, the point estimates are quite close, the CI are overlapping, and there is no mention of a statistical comparison between them. It would be more appropriate just to state that both GFR and UACR are important. While this significantly limits the novelty of the findings, it would be a more accurate conclusion.

Minor comments:

-Abstract, results: it would be easier to read if the reference group was listed first (ie “compared to participants > 60, those with GFR between 30-44….”). The sentence about the association with UACR is particularly difficult to follow

-Methods: would recommend using the term “excluded” rather than “discarded” when referring to patients

-Methods: “cases that did not fulfill this requisite were excluded…” is not clear. Which requisite, and how does this differ from the exclusions mentioned in the first paragraph?

-Results: as in the abstract, it is not always clear what is considered the reference group

-Discussion: “creatinine and UACR were measured in different laboratories”; presumably the authors mean that these were not measured centrally, not just that the serum and urine tests were performed in two different settings?

-Table 1: there are no statistical comparisons provided in this table; to avoid cluttering the table, it might be reasonable to indicate significant changes with a symbol or bold font?

-Table 3: column headings could be more clearly labeled here. The same applies to row labels in Table 4. The (n) is conventionally used to indicate the n in a sample, so it may be confusing to readers

-Table 4: some of the OR are presented with inconsistent punctuation and # of significant digits

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests