Reviewer’s report

Title: Low Serum Calcium Is Associated With Poor Renal Outcomes In Chronic Kidney Disease Stages 3-4 Patients

Version: 2 Date: 17 August 2014

Reviewer: cristina capusa

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. The authors stated in the Methods section that measured calcium was corrected for serum albumin. However, in the rest of the manuscript they referred only as serum total calcium. Which parameter (total calcium or corrected total calcium) was analyzed should be clearly stated by the authors all through the manuscript. Since there are several data that do not show any advantage of albumin-corrected calcium over the non-corrected one (see Gauci C et al, JASN 2008;19:1592), it is preferable to include in the analyses only the measured serum total calcium. Anyway, the authors should comment on this issue and its potential implication for the clinical applicability of their results.

2. The fact that ionized calcium was not measured should be add to the discussion of study limitations.

3. The normal reference range of the used laboratory for serum calcium and phosphate should be provided (in the Methods section). And the fact that the lower serum total calcium quartile appears to be in the normal reference range should be commented.

4. Some typo errors should be corrected:
   - Background, second paragraph, first line – the word “and” should be deleted
   - Ethical statement section, third line – duplication of word “from”

5. The reference list should be arranged according to general rules of citing scientific journals (use of the journal’s abbreviation is mandatory).

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

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:

In the five past years I have received travel grants for scientific meetings and speaker fees from Abbott, Amgen, Fresenius NephroCare, Vifor pharma, and Zentiva.