Reviewer's report

Title: Soluble Klotho is not independently associated with cardiovascular disease in a population of dialysis patients

Version: 2 Date: 29 July 2014

Reviewer: Carmine Zoccali

Reviewer's report:

This is a substantially negative study which fails to associate low Klotho to cardiovascular disease in dialysis patients. To this referee, the observations by dr Buiten deserve publication because they enlarge the portfolio of Klotho data in dialysis patients and because may help investigators to plan new studies on this interesting problem.

This is a cross-sectional study. The authors use the word "incidence" inappropriately in the discussion (pg 9 L6-8 and 22-24). Incidence can be estimated only in cohort studies.

FGF23 was measured but the association of this growth factor with LVMI (an issue scarcely studied in dialysis patients, just 3 small studies of medium-low quality) is not described.

The authors did not state whether or not they tested whether Klotho interact with other factors in determining the study outcomes. FGF23 interacted with inflammation and other factors in prospective studies and such analyses may enrich the present study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests