Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 22 September 2014

Reviewer: Hirotaka Komaba

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Author

This cross-sectional study examined the relationship between sKlotho and the presence of CVD in dialysis patients, using data from the ICD-2 trial. The researchers found that patients with a low sKlotho level had a higher incidence of CAD and LV dysfunction but sKlotho was not independently associated with CVD. The paper is focused, data are well-presented and the discussion is balanced.

Major points:

1. The main objective of this study was to determine the relationship between sKlotho and the presence of CVD but other parameters of mineral metabolisms, particularly FGF23, and the presence of CVD should also be examined.

2. Prior studies demonstrated that cinacalcet and active vitamin D both affected levels of sKlotho in dialysis patients and uremic mice, respectively. Did the authors find association of sKlotho with these treatments in this study population?

Minor points:

1. Table 1: No unit is noted in creatinine.

2. Negative association between sKlotho and aortic calcification are important and should be included in the abstract.

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.