Reviewer's report

Title: A randomized trial of sodium-restriction on kidney function, fluid volume and adipokines in CKD patients

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Reviewer: Jan Krikken

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript Campbell et al. show a post-hoc analysis of ACE polymorphism, inflammatory markers and adipokines during low and high sodium intake in chronic kidney disease.

Although the manuscript is well-written and the trail is neatly performed there are some major issues the authors should assess:

- This is a post-hoc analysis which is a first impressions adds no major new issues to the original paper the recently published. Therefore the data seems to offer little additional information. Maybe something for a short communication or letter?
- As the authors already stated in the discussion part the study is grossly underpowered to assess the issues regarding ACE polymorphism. This is however one of the main questions of the study.
- There was no significant effect of dietary sodium intake found on plasma adiponectin levels. The possible link between sodium and adiponectin levels suggested in literature is the RAAS. To make a proper judgement it would be helpful to know the extent of ACE/ARB use in the patients
- Inflammatory parameters were measured during both diets as a high sodium diet is known to induce pro-inflammatory status. However this hypothesis is not supported by these data. Probably the study period is not long enough to see such subtle changes. Could the authors please elaborate on this?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'