Reviewer's report

Title: Can Chitosan Chewing Gum Reduce the Serum Phosphate of Hemodialysis Patients? A Multi-Center Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 15 February 2014

Reviewer: Makoto Watanabe

Reviewer's report:

The authors work is a well-designed clinical study that salivary phosphate has been proposed as a target of the therapy with chitosan-containing chewing gum as a phosphate binder for hemodialysis patients. The result was unfortunately not significant.

I find no need for Major Compulsory Revision.

Minor revisions
Methods: 'ClinicalTrials' add '.gov'

Discretionary Revisions
I suggest that authors should explain why authors enrolled patients with over 1g/2 min saliva flow rate by Saxon test. In general, 2g/2 min is borderline for xerostomia. Postorino et.al. (AJKD 2003) reported that mean salivary secretion was 3.3 g/2 min in HD patients (after dialysis session). There is a possibility that patients with xerostomia was enrolled, so saliva flow rate may have a wide range in this study.

In addition, authors need to shown further patients' details about drugs which affected to saliva, i.e. antihistamines or proton pump inhibitors, and about disease, i.e. sjogren's syndrome or lupus, about habits i.e. alcohol or smoking.

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:
Declaration pf competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.