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: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Kanji Shishido

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision: 0
Minor Essential Revisions: 2
Discretionary Revision: 0

I've just finished peer-reviewing a revised paper entitled “Can Chitosan Chewing Gum Reduce the Serum Phosphate of Hemodialysis Patients?”. This randomized placebo-controlled double blind study shows that Chitosan-based chewing gum HS219 does not decrease serum phosphate level in hemodialysis patients. The results are negative but very interesting. The paper has potential to be acceptable for publication in the BMC Nephrology.

Minor comments

1. In this paper, the authors use two similar terms, “phosphorus” and “phosphate”. Please confirm to use the two words suitably and properly in the context.

2. According to the protocol of this study, serum levels of phosphate, calcium, and albumin were measured in each treatment arms every week (week 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). The authors provide those levels at only two points, baseline and week 3. However, the changes in serum P and corrected Ca levels provide important information to understand this study. I think that the authors should illustrate serum P levels throughout the 6-week study period.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.