Reviewer's report

Title: A multidisciplinary program for achieving lipid goals in chronic hemodialysis patients

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Reviewer: Dr David Saltissi

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

I found this a well written, informative and enjoyable paper to read. Multidisciplinary approaches to enhancing initiation and adherence to therapy in essential and cost-effective clinical areas is sadly underutilised. The benefits of cholesterol lowering and Statin therapy, over and above cholesterol lowering, particularly in the light of the recently publicised results of the UK ‘Heart Protection Study’, is now so overwhelming that I feel this paper will help considerably to reverse the lagardly approach of Nephrologists and Physicians worldwide in providing the benefits to renal failure patients who suffer extraordinary CV morbidity and mortality.

Compulsary Revisions:
1. At the onset 14 patients were on statins, after 6 months, 15. What was therefore the reason for LDL lowering in the other patients who achieved target LDL in the progam? If dietary intervention, then some comment in the text as to this should be made, in the light particularly of Saltissi D et al, Am J kidney Disease 37,6: 1209-1215, 2001.
2. HDL-cholesterol is mentioned as being measured. Were there any changes here.
3. Was CPK measured at baseline? If not, why not?
4. I presume 2 of the 3 patients who did not achieve LDL target were the one's who were withdrawn from statin therapy - what was the cause in the 3rd case?

Discretionary revisions:
1. a line graph of the individual patient's change in LDL from time 0 to 6 months would be informative in a number of ways.

Competing interests:

1.Member of Australian national lipid advisory board for Merck,Sharp and Dohme.
2.Funded by MSD for clinical trial of Simvastatin in dialysis patients.
3.Funded by Parke-Davis / Pfizer for clinical trial of Atorvastatin in advanced CRF and dialysis patients ( completed, manuscript in preparation for submission )