Reviewer's report

Title: r.hu-Erythropoietin (EPO) treatment of pre-ESRD patients slows the rate of progression of renal decline

Authors:
Dr Mihaly Tapolyai (mihaly.tapolyai@fmc-ag.com)
Satoshi Kadomatsu (unagi31042002@yahoo.com)
Manuel Perera-Chang (Manuel.Perera-Chang@fmc-ag.com)

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jan 2003

Reviewer: Allen R Nissenson

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is a timely and interesting study of the impact of EPO therapy and anemia treatment on the rate of progression of renal failure in CKD patients. The paper would be considerably stronger if the authors addressed the following:

1. There should be a clear description of the demographics of the patient population studied including age, gender, race, cause of CKD, etc. This would be useful to have in tabular form.

2. The major issue the authors need to address relates to the significance of the study. As they point out in the discussion, there are several papers in the literature that show the same thing this study shows. In what way is this study unique or does it add new information to the literature?

Competing interests:

None declared.