Reviewer's report

Title: Calciphylaxis in Chronic, Non-Dialysis-Dependent Renal Disease

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Reviewer: Uwe Wollina

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

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This report is of medical interest.
Calciphylaxis remains a possible life-threatening complication of renal disease.

The data herein clearly demonstrate that in more advanced stages of disease a surgical debridement of the wounds is not sufficient enough to decrease the risk of infection. A deep surgical removal followed by skin transplantation seems more appropriate. Could the authors please comment on this? (See also the recent article by C. Gudacker et al. (2001) Z Wundheilung/ J Wound Healing 6 (21):11-12.)
Is there any evidence that hydrocolloids may worsen the prognosis in calciphylaxis?
The use of biosurgery in calcyphihasis is of particular interest. There has been a previous report on this subject: J. Tittelbach et al. (2001) Painful ulcers in calciphylaxis - combined treatment with maggot therapy and oral pentoxyfillin. J Dermatol Treatment 12:211-4. Pseudomonas is one of the germs not digested by L. cericata maggots. This was the germ responsible for systemic infection after biosurgery. Please discuss.
Some mis-spellings need correction (e.g. calciphylaxis without capital letter).

Competing interests:

None declared.