Reviewer's report

Title: Optimal and continuous anaemia control in a cohort of dialysis patients in Switzerland

Version: 1 Date: 4 March 2008

Reviewer: Francesco Locatelli

Reviewer's report:

Major revision:
· The conclusions are heavily influenced by patient’ sample selection. Also the authors underlined that this problem exists. Sample selection is an important confounder that makes the interpretation of the results reached by the authors questionable. The authors said that 37% of the Swiss dialysis centres participated but only 14% of the prevalent patient population were included, it seems that there is an heavy selection bias.
· Page 7: EPO administration and dose: the authors underline the fact that patients treated once weekly required a significantly lower EPO dose compared to patients treated more frequently. What does it mean? That patients that respond better to the treatment have a reduced frequency of administration? Could a selection bias lead to the result that once weekly dosing leads to less requirement?

Minor revision:
· Page 13, lines 16-21: using body weight and fat mass to calculate EPO needs is disputable. In fact the diabetic patients had an higher body weight and this could be possible explanation of the negative correlation between body weight and EPO dose.
· Page 14; lines 14-16: the authors speak about the negative effect of higher Hb levels on BP control and on arterio-venous access thrombosis, but the authors did not analysed the presence of adverse events due to higher Hb levels in their population.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.