Author's response to reviews

Title: Pruritus in hemodialysis patients

Authors:

Maryam Akhyani (ma_akhyani@yahoo.com)
Mohammad-Reza Ganji (ganjimoh@sina.tums.ac.ir)
Nasrin Samadi (nasrinmd@parsonline.net)
Behnaz Khamesan (behnazkhamesan@yahoo.com)
Maryam Daneshpazhooh (maryamdanesh@yahoo.com)

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2005

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

I would like to thank you the reviewers for their valuable comments. We have made major changes in our manuscript. We have decided to include part of our original study regarding the evaluation of clinical neuropathy in our patients in the revised manuscript. Furthermore, we have tried to revise the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments. I hope the revised manuscript will be judged ready for publication.

Maryam Daneshpazhooh

The changes are as follows:

Dr Boner:
Major revisions:
1- The title is changed to "Pruritus in hemodialysis patients"
2- A- Age is added as mean and range in material and methods section, line3 and 4.
B- The underlying disease was unknown in the remaining cases. It is added to the manuscript.
C- Polysulfones was used as dialyser, sodium hypochlorite was used for sterilization, and the dialysate was mainly acetate. These are added to the 1st paragraph of material and methods. At the time of the study Kt/V was not measured. The usual and routine time of dialysis was 3 times / week, and for 4 hours. Only occasionally there was missing sessions due to holidays and the means of sessions justify this. The data regarding the mean of the number of hours per week was not available. We changed this part as follows: "The routine of dialysis was 3 times per week (except holidays) for 4 hours. The mean of dialysis sessions per week are presented in table 1."
Minor revisions:
1- "Six patients had episodic but generalized pruritus with disturbance in work or sleep and their itch was categorized as moderate or severe. " This is added to the results section. The effect of itch on work and sleep was emphasized when choosing the appropriate category. We have added it as follows in the methods section: "The major emphasis was on the disturbance in usual work and sleep."

Dr Weisshar:
Major revisions:
1- We used the criteria of hanifin and Rajka were used for atopic dermatitis. We have added it to the methods section and references(14)
2- At the time of the study Kt/V was not measured in these hemodialysis units. Polysulfones was used as dialyser, sodium hypochlorite was used for sterilization, and the dialysate was mainly acetate. These are added to 1st paragraph of the materials and methods.
3- We have added new references and tried to discuss and compare better others' results with ours. We have mentioned in the discussion that this is the first report from Iran.
4- This paper was added and the results were discussed (paragraph 2 discussion)
5- We would like to use this book for improving our manuscript, but, unfortunately, we had no access to it.
6- Normal values are added to the table.

Minor revisions:
1- Place and country are added.
2- "Mild... only on legs." Corrected.

The following changes are made, too:

1- Abstract: -Tehran, Iran added
2- Abstract: - The data regarding neuropathy added. Conclusion changed completely.
3- Introduction: (understimulation of receptors or overexpression of receptors) added in the putative mechanisms.
4- Material and methods: neuropathy was added as a section.
5- Results: Results related to neuropathy were added.
6- Discussion: complete change in paragraphs 2 and 3
7- Discussion: Results related to neuropathy are discussed.
8- Discussion: Conclusion changed.
9- References: references 12, 14, 21, 22, 23, 35, 36, 37, 38 39, 40, 41,42,43 added
10- Keywords: neuropathy added