Reviewer's report

Title: Apolipoprotein L1, Income and Early Kidney Damage

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Reviewer: Sophie liabeuf

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It is a cross sectional study from the healthy aging in neighborhoods of diversity across the Life Span (HANDLS) study. Is is an interesting study concerning a subpopulation (African americans) to evaluate the impact of genetic and environmental factors on early kidney damage. However, due to the low rate of early kidney damage, statistical adjustments were limited.

Introduction A brief reminder regarding ApoL1 could be interesting.

Methods: Is it possible to know the number of people followed by a nephrologist and with CKD diagnostic?

Results: Did the authors try to perform analysis using variables with different categorization (ApoL1 0 low, 1 moderate and 2 high risk) and household income with quintiles?

It's seems that the impacts of income and ApoL1 are important for estimated GFR less than 60ml/min however statistical adjustment are difficult to perform due to low event number.

Discussion: Part regarding limitations need to be add in the end of discussion and not in the conclusion part.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests