Author's response to reviews

Title: Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of medial arterial calcification assessed histologically of radial arteries

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Version: 3
Date: 10 April 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to reviews

MS: 1891196270152746

Title: Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of histologically assessed medial calcification in radial arteries

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Version: 2
Date: 10 April 2015

Editorial Request:
1. Please add an 'Abbreviations' section.
   Done.

2. Copyediting - We recommend that you copyedit the paper to improve the style of written English.
   The style of written English in the entire ms has been checked and corrected.

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of medial arterial calcification assessed histologically of radial arteries

Version: 1
Date: 10 March 2015

Reviewer: Hemant Boolani

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
The topic is relevant and has been tackled well by authors. There are a few grammatical errors noted Some examples are line 124-126, the context and grammar is not exactly clear, As well as in lines 416-417, the context remains unclear. Overall the document adequately conveys its context, the language in some parts of the document can be revised to make it more elegant.

The style of written English in the entire ms has been checked and corrected.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published

See above

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
Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of medial arterial calcification assessed histologically of radial arteries

Version: 1 Date: 27 March 2015

Reviewer: Ronak Soni

Reviewer's report:
The research question is well defined and appropriate methods have been used to study this question. The discussion section addresses pertinent limitations. I have following suggestions:

# Major compulsory revisions:

1. Following sentence in line 386-387 appears to be incomplete:
   “Thus, indirectly CCA-IMT may indicate an increased risk of MAC and may be of use as noninvasive method for assessing overall”
   
   This copyediting error has been corrected. The sentence is now complete:
   “…as noninvasive method for assessing overall cardiovascular risk in this population”.

# Minor revisions:

1. Title may be re-phrased as below:
   Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of medial arterial calcification of radial arteries assessed histologically
   
   Another copyediting error, sorry. The title has been corrected to:
   “Cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease patients: intima-media thickness predicts the incidence and severity of histologically assessed medial calcification in radial arteries”
   
   The sequence of words slightly differs from that proposed by the Reviewer, since it is calcification that has been assessed histologically.

2. Abstract may not need names of all parameters included in the study (i.e. iPTH, pentraxin 3, ferric reducing ability of plasma, 2,2-diphenyl-1-92 picrylhydrazyl scavenging, ferric reducing ability of ascorbate, FGF-23, fetuin A, osteopontin).
   
   Done. This part of Abstract has been rewritten to omit the names of the parameters and only to describe generally the methods used:
   “Methods: The study comprised 59 patients (36 hemodialyzed, 23 predialysis). CCA-IMT was measured by ultrasonography; the biochemical parameters examined were assessed using routine laboratory methods, ELISA micro-plate immunoassays and spectrophotometry. Fragments of radial artery obtained during creation of hemodialysis access were cryosectioned and stained for calcifications using von Kossa method and alizarin red.”
3. Since, OPG predicted CCA-IMT, authors can consider studying impact of OPG levels on overall mortality.

   Serum OPG levels did not correlate with overall mortality.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Katarzyna Janda