Reviewer’s report

Title: End Stage Renal Disease as a Modifier of the Periodontal Microbiome

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Thomas Dietrich

Reviewer’s report:

This well-written manuscript describes a cross-sectional study on a timely and important topic. While I cannot comment on the specific laboratory and statistical techniques described by the authors I have one major concern.

In the first sentence of the methods section, the authors call this study (quite appropriately) a pilot study. However, the statistical treatment with an emphasis on hypothesis testing and the conclusions are inconsistent with the idea of a pilot study.

A minor point is that I would be interested to know the reasons for non-eligibility for a majority of the ESRD patients (only 14/52 were eligible) - I suspect that they did not meet periodontal criteria, but this information should be included for both groups.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

My research interests include the area of periodontal disease in patients with chronic kidney disease. I declare that I have no financial competing interests.