Reviewer’s report

Title: Traditional Medicine Practices Among Community Members with Chronic Kidney Disease in Northern Tanzania: An Ethnomedical Survey

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Titi Ilori

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This is a very interesting article that describes traditional medicine practices in individuals at risk for Chronic Kidney Disease and those with Chronic Kidney Disease in Tanzania. It reports a high prevalence of traditional medicine use in individuals with CKD and in those at risk for CKD.

Major Review

1. The structured survey instrument should be described a little more. I acknowledge that authors reference an earlier manuscript where the development of the survey instrument was described. However, the manuscript would benefit from a summarized description of the survey instrument and how it was developed to measured the desired outcomes.

2. It may be interesting for the authors to analyze the association between traditional medicine use and prevalent CKD using logistic regression.

Minor Reviews

1. Some of the prevalence rates and 95% confidence intervals reported are confusing for example page 9 line 41" most adults report using TM 1-5 times (95% CI 54.4%; 33.4-73.9%). " It may be advisable to clearly define the rate prior to the confidence interval. This pattern is repeated in page 9 line 43, page 11 lines 28.

2. On Page 12 line 19, the authors recorded 168 plant-based traditional medicines and five were identified. How were these traditional medicines recorded and identified. How were the plant-based traditional treatments identified?

3. How would the authors suggest handling the challenges that result from ethno pharmacology since there may be some benefits of some traditional medicine but also concurrent nephrotoxicity and renal damage?

4. In the discussion the authors mention on line 54 page 13 that cataloging regional ethnopharmacology would be useful in understanding and treating CKD. Could the authors expand on this point?
5. Page 13 line 43 "presences of CKD " should be revised to read "presence."

6. It appears that the population is predominantly female both those that have CKD and those that do not. Can the authors comment on some possible reasons for this?

7. Although the population is predominantly urban, the level of education is mostly primary level and below (more than 70% of the populations have only primary education). Can the authors comment on why there is such a low level of education in an urban setting?

8. What percentage of those in the general population sought care from traditional healers because only 9% of those with CKD sought help from traditional healers?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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