Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of initial dialysis modality on mortality: a propensity-matched study

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jul 2015

Reviewer: piergiorgio bolasco

Reviewer's report:

The Authors describe the effects on mortality comparing hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis in a selected cohorts of ESRD patients.

TITLE: must be integrated like "Impact of initial modality on mortality in young (or <65) dialysis patients: a propensity-matched study. This change is to avoid generalizations and so extending the research results to the entire considered population.

Main questions

page 7 line 1: How is estimated the propensity score? which parameters had taken into account to calculate it?

Discussion. line 54. The analysis was carried out well as statistically than methodologically but remember it may be only for patients under 65 years in both HD and PD.

Conclusions. The population is represented by a positively selected subset of patients thanks to the use of propensity score considering the mortality at 2 and 5 years. It should be better emphasized the concept that these results cannot be extended to the general considered population of 3,555 patients from 2005 to 2012. In this period - presumably 8 years - the incidence of ESRD patients in Norway is approximately 87 pts / million / year. This percentage is much lower than the rest of Europe, which in the same period exceeds 160 / patients / million inhabitants. In Norway the population with CKD is followed very closely by showing a more virtuous reality apparently far than other European countries.

Tables needed: it would be interesting to show all parameters showed in table 1 at least in to two interim periods from baseline to the end of observation especially those related to the nutritional status. It is indispensable - for a correct outcome evaluation at least in the population matched - to show dialysis efficiency parameters in both dialysis methods because a discrepancy in dialytic purification may be have considerable influence on the curves in the survival figures.

Figures 2 no significance showed

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

**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.

No

**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:

Acceptable

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