Reviewer’s report

Title: The Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration Equation combining Creatinine and Cystatin C Accurately Assesses Renal Function in Patients with Cirrhosis

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jul 2015

Reviewer: Andre Kengne

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The Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration Equation combining Creatinine and Cystatin C Accurately Assesses Renal Function in Patients with Cirrhosis.

This manuscript is a significant contribution by Dr Krones and co-workers to strategies for improving kidney function assessment and chronic kidney disease (CKD) screening in people with cirrhosis.

However, partly due to the nature of the background conditions and the stringent inclusions criteria, the manuscript is based on a small number of participants; which may not justify the length of the manuscript, the scope of the data analyses and some of the strong claims made by the authors. Estimates in such a small sample are generally unstable, and adding just few patients at times can completely change the story the data was telling. I have the following suggestions for the authors:

1) The focus should essentially be on the continuous measure of kidney function. With only 8 participants in the CKD range, it seems meaningless to present and discuss the result on categorical kidney function measurements.

2) This study is about predictions, not the mechanisms of effect. As such the section on the effects of cholephites seems to be less contributive to this particular work, and the authors should consider taking it out together with the relevant discussion section.

3) With (1) and (2) done, the authors will probably have more space to expand the assessment on the continuous relationship between different measures of kidney function. Although there are currently providing the confidence interval about correlation coefficients. They should consider formally testing the difference between correlation coefficients. There as statistical tests for such a purpose.

4) The authors may also want to indicate if there was any sample estimation done for the study.

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?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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