Author's response to reviews

Title: Gastrointestinal symptoms, inflammation and hypoalbuminemia in chronic kidney disease patients: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

Xuehan Zhang (zxhzpp@hotmail.com)
Nisha Bansal (NBansal@Nephrology.washington.edu)
Alan S Go (Alan.S.Go@kp.org)
Chi-yuan Hsu (Chi-yuan.Hsu@ucsf.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript entitled “Gastrointestinal symptoms, inflammation and hypoalbuminemia in chronic kidney disease patients: a cross-sectional study”, which we wish to be considered for publication as a “research article” in BMC nephrology. This paper is new. Neither the entire paper nor any part of its content has been published or has been accepted elsewhere.

We believe the paper may be of particular interest to the readers of BMC Nephrology as few studies have focused on investigating hypoalbuminemia in patients during earlier stages of CKD. In particular, little is known about the role of gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms. This paper studied how GI symptoms relate to serum albumin levels in CKD, especially in the context of and compared with inflammation. The results revealed that GI symptoms, like inflammation, are risk factors for lower serum albumin levels. But the presence of GI symptoms (and inflammation) cannot fully explain the prevalence of hypoalbuminemia in CKD patients.

We would like to recommend Dr. Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh (kkz@uci.edu), Dr. Glenn Chertow (gchertow@stanford.edu) and Dr. T. Alp Ikizler (alp.ikizler@Vanderbilt.Edu) to be considered as reviewers.

All authors declare that they have no competing interests and approve to submit to your journal. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Please see below for a point by point description of the change made to editorial request.

Best wishes,
Xuehan Zhang
Department of Health Care, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese
Editorial Request

1. **Line numbering**

   This had been added to the manuscript.

2. **Title page - It should contain, at minimum, the names, institutions, countries and email addresses of all authors, and the full postal address of the submitting author.**

   We had added email addresses of all authors in the title page.

3. **Please add an 'Abbreviations' section.**

   An “Abbreviations” section had been added to the manuscript.

4. **Ethics - Please note that all submissions to BMC Nephrology must comply with our editorial policies. In particular, please ensure that your manuscript contains any required statements regarding ethical approval and consent from patients/participants; adheres to any relevant standards of reporting with a completed checklist where appropriate; and contains an Availability of Supporting Data section explaining how the supporting data is available to researchers, including the repository and accession number where appropriate. Manuscripts which do not adhere to our editorial policies may experience delays or be rejected.**

   The study was approved by the local institutional review boards at the CRIC data coordinating center and recruitment sites. Also, this study was approved by the University of California San Francisco Committee on Human Research (IRB Number: 10-04231). This has been added to the manuscript.

5. **Consent - Please state in the Methods section whether written informed
consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

All CRIC participants gave informed consent for the collection of information for the purpose of research. This had been added to the Methods section.