Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 14 March 2015

Reviewer: Paul Stevens

Reviewer's report:

This paper makes an interesting observation that GI symptoms in this large cohort of patients become apparent at GFR levels #45 ml/min. The paper then attempts to describe risk factors and associations but for me this is where the paper becomes weak.

Major compulsory revisions

1. More information about the cohort, especially cause of CKD which is obviously relevant to the subject of hypoalbuminaemia.
2. Prevalence of co-existent vascular disease within the cohort
3. Choice of reference group, I don't believe this can be a true control, partly because of the baseline characteristics of the cohort. We are given no information of how the characteristics of the reference group without GI symptoms compare with those with GI symptoms.
4. Was BMI one of the covariates in the regression analysis? You don't explicitly say so.
5. What was the relationship between BMI and GI symptoms? This is a very fat cohort!

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests