Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Correlates of Cognitive Impairment in Kidney Transplant Recipients

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Reviewer: Vittoria Esposito

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The paper by Aditi Gupta et al. evaluates prevalence of cognitive impairment in kidney transplant recipients through the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA). Authors use a cross sectional study design analyzing 226 patients, a MoCA score below 26 was considered suggestive for a cognitive impairment. Authors conclude that cognitive impairment is common in transplanted patients and is more common in male patients, of older age and lower level of education.

The paper has major limitations:

Study design does not allow to evaluate any changes in the score (considering data prior to transplant or after a defined follow up) and it does not allow to make any physiopathologic conclusions.

Considering that no association between eGFR levels and MoCA score were noted this does not make the results surprising since as authors state the prevalence of cognitive impairment in dialysis patients is well known and it is known to be more precocious compared to general population. Dialyzed patients are indeed exposed to many alterations and the metabolic alterations associated to uremic state are only the tip of the iceberg, making the hypothesis that cognitive impairment may as well be due to several other factors such as vascular alterations secondary to chronic inflammatory state or to diseases such as diabetes and hypertension more plausible.

The proposed data thus is only minimally innovative and although it may be useful to consider the higher risk of cognitive impairment in transplanted population compared to general population the main bias is considering formerly dialyzed patients comparable to general population and also implying that a score below 26 can indeed condition a reduction of adherence to therapy.

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.

No
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review

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