Reviewer’s report

Title: Indole 3-acetic acid, indoxyl sulfate and paracresyl-sulfate do not influence anemia parameters in hemodialysis patients.

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Sandawana Majoni

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is an interesting study examination the potential influence of the protein bound uremic toxins, Indole 3-acetic acid, indoxyl sulfate and paracresyl-sulfate on anemia parameters in hemodialysis patients. It assesses the potential effect of these toxins which have been shown in in vitro studies to have potential causal effect in the pathophysiology of anemia. There is paucity of clinical studies to support this. It is written in good English but needs correction of some grammatical errors.

The authors need to address the following:

1. In the methods sections under the subsection, Clinical, biological, and hemodialysis parameters, what dialysis parameters were the authors referring to? It is not very clear and need clarification.

2. In the Statistical analysis section, they used Student and chi-squared tests. Whereas readers can deduce that the student test referred to is the Student T-test, the authors have to write this in full in the manuscript. Another minor comment is that they have to specify whether the p-value was two-tailed or one-tailed. I assumed it to be two tailed.

3. There are a few grammatical errors in the manuscript which will need revision. For example, the following statement should read "All patients on hemodialysis for more than 3 months and on either no ESA, or darbepoietin treatment were included in the study", instead of "All patients under hemodialysis since more than 3 months and with either no ESA, or darbepoietin treatment were included in the study"

4. Can the authors add a statement in their discussion on why they think the clinical findings in this study are different from the findings from vitro studies?

Overall, despite the above comments, this study provides interesting information on the lack of influence of these toxins to the pathophysiology of anemia in haemodialysis patients.
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.
Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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