Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between periodontal disease and mortality in people with CKD: A meta-analysis of cohort studies

Version: 0 Date: 09 May 2017

Reviewer: Peter Hamar

Reviewer’s report:

This meta analysis of cohort studies demonstrates that periodontal disease (PD) is associated with all cause mortality but not with cardiovascular (CV) mortality in chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients. The topic is relevant and the study is well powered and written. However, the expected pathomechanism of PD’s influence on CKD mortality is induction of inflammatory processes contributing to CV disease progression. Since the result rule out this mechanism, the reason for elevated all cause mortality remains unanswered. The paper would be substantially more valuable if the reason for elevated all-cause mortality would be found. Further analysis of the available data would enable searching for other factors for eg. careless personality associated with bad oral hygiene leading to less compliance with therapies or more accidents. Focusing on heart rate and blood-pressure is not a sensitive way of estimating cardiovascular status. Assessment of further laboratory parameters such as cardiac troponin or inflammatory parameters (CRP, cytokines, etc) would substantially support the analysis and might give some clues why PD was associated with all-cause mortality.

Minor comments:

p6/ line 50 "studies" is in duplicate

p7/line 4-6: the sentence is unclear

p/7 line 17: the sentence starts with And

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.
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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