Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between poor nutritional status and progression of aortic calcification in patients on maintenance hemodialysis

Version: 0 Date: 02 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Marco Colucci

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript. In general, the topic is quite interesting, and relatively few works have explored the relationship between malnutrition and the development of arterial calcification, moreover with controversial results.

MAJOR COMMENTS:

- As NF/KDOQI on Dialysis Adequacy and other guidelines recommend a target blood pressure <140/90 mmHg, why did you choose a different value to define "hypertension"? Moreover, as blood pressure control may be variable in hemodialysis patients, depending upon several factors, why did you take in account just 3 measurements? And at which time point(s) were these ones taken?

- Of course GNRI is a well validated score to assess malnutrition status in the elderly; however, in hemodialysis patient, normalized protein catabolic rate is also very widely used. Why did you choose the first one over the second?

- 184 hemodialysis patient undergoing abdomen CT scan with 1-year frequency in a single centre is quite a number. What were the main indication for performing these CT scans?

- What were the principal comorbidities (besides diabetes and hypertension) of included patients? And what were the causes of ESRD?

MINOR COMMENTS:

- Page 8, line 129: please correct the equation for albumin-corrected-calcium (0.8 factor is missing)
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

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:

Acceptable

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