Author’s response to reviews

Title: Angiotensin II Receptor Blockade is Associated with Preserved Muscle Strength in Chronic Hemodialysis Patients

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Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for their suggestions of our manuscript. We are sending you the revised version of the manuscript (BNEP-D-18-00441 R2). We have provided a point-to-point response to the comments. These comments are really helpful to the improvement of the manuscript. We sincerely hope that these changes in our manuscript will make it more suitable for considering publication.

Yours sincerely,

Bang-Gee Hsu. MD, PhD.
Responses to editor comments:

Thanks to the authors for the revised manuscript and point-to-point answers. Now the point is the unexpected relationship between Kt/V and muscle strength. If authors believe this result was derived from body size (BMI, SMI also positively correlated), I think Kt/V is not better than standardized Ccr in which the effect of “V” is removed. If authors believe this unexpected result was because muscle catabolism or nutrition loss, I think more data for evidence may be needed.

Answer: We appreciate the editor's concern about the negative correlation between Kt/V and handgrip strength in this study. We agree your viewpoint that this result was derived from the impact of body size. Instead of Kt/V, we apply urea clearance ratio (URR) for further analysis, and a similar result was reached (as in the supplement file; r = -0.459, p < 0.001). We had added the information of URR in the Table 1 & 3 and Result Section. As your suggestion, more evidence is needed to clarify the relationship between Kt/V and HGS.