Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of Functional and Structural Social Support with Chronic Kidney Disease among African Americans: The Jackson Heart Study

Version: 0 Date: 15 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Shayan Shirazian

Reviewer's report:

In their study, "Association of Functional and Structural Social Support with Chronic Kidney Disease among African Americans: The Jackson Heart Study," Hall et al. examine the association of both functional and structural social support with prevalent CKD and kidney function decline using data from the Jackson Heart Study (JHS). The study was interesting, well-written and well designed. Unfortunately, the authors did not find an association between social support and prevalent CKD or kidney function decline. They did find an association between one of the social support domains, self-esteem, with lower odds of prevalent CKD. One thing I would like to see prior to publication is a more in depth description of the social support measure - ISEL. Please describe in greater detail why a cutoff of <32 was chosen to indication low social support. Include a description of other studies that used this measure in your discussion, and what the ISEL results were in these studies (i.e. what is an average ISEL score in the general population or those with chronic illness).

In the discussion the authors state, "Most participants reported high scores on ISEL items which may represent social desirability bias with participants' choice of socially acceptable responses instead of honest responses to ISEL items," AND "Alternatively, the ISEL items may not be effective in discriminating small differences in perceived social support." - Please explain both statements in greater detail.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?
As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.
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Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are you able to assess the statistics?
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?
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