Reviewer’s report

Title: Atherosclerotic vascular disease is more prevalent among black ESKD patients on long-term Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis patients in South Africa

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

"PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

No - there are major issues

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are major issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are major issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are major issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is a cross sectional study regarding the prevalence of atherosclerosis (as measured by CIMT) in a groups of patients with CKD stage 3, HD, PD and a control group.

The authors report higher prevalence of atherosclerosis in the PD group. Although the results are interesting there are several issues to be addressed before jumping to the conclusion that PD is related with more atherosclerosis.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

There is no data regarding diabetes in the HD and PD group. There were no diabetics?

There is no data regarding dialysis vintage for the HD and PD group. This is extremely important issue as long term PD patients loose residual renal function and this may also impact serum creatinine levels (high in the PD group). All PD patients had started dialysis with PD or there were patients transferred from HD?

There is no data regarding PD (CAPD, APD, PD prescription, KT/V) and HD (thrice weekly?, kt/V? etc).

The authors should clearly state that the patients were not on statins or give more details.

WHR (waist hip ratio) is usually altered in PD patients as there is an increase of waist due to the fluid in the peritoneal cavity. So, there is a bias in this parameter.

Figures 2 and 3 are not needed. Add the values of creatinine and albumin in the descriptive data table.

Table 3 is including which patients: HD and PD only?

The term African American patients is more politically correct than black patients.

Why in the HD group the authors used pre-HD and not post-HD body weight ("dry weight") although in the PD group the used the post drain body weight ? (page 6)?
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

See above"

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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Yes

Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?
Please state in the ‘Comments to Authors’ box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please explain in the ‘Comments to Author’ box below.

No

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?
Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the ‘Comments to Author’ box):

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Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in the ‘Comments to Author’ box below.

No

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

Acceptable

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No

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