Reviewer's report

Title: NOURISH Nutritional OUTcomes from a Randomised Investigation of Intradialytic oral nutritional Supplements in patients receiving Haemodialysis. A pilot Randomised Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 16 November 2014

Reviewer: Hee-Joon Bae

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting and well-written paper about the feasibility trial of oral nutritional supplements for patients receiving hemodialysis. I have only a few comments which may require minor revision.

1. The final suggested sample size is 181 patients and 18 centers in the abstract and 189 patients and 19 centers in the end of the results section. Which one is correct?

2. Description on outcomes is a little confusing. So many outcomes are listed in the paragraph explain the primary outcome. In my opinion, even in the feasibility trial, primary outcome should be one or two. And in this trial, it is the recruitment rate. Others should be secondary outcomes.

3. The sentences in the discussion section as below may be not understandable to the readers in countries other than UK and working outside of hemodialysis patient care.

   "This process demonstrates that recruitment predictions cannot be extrapolated by number of weeks the site is open to recruitment. Further eligible participants would need to be awaited, for example, after 6 months of being on haemodialysis and this has implications for planning the number of sites that would be required in a definitive trial."

4. In the discussion section, the authors wrote as follows, "The trial would be feasible with these estimates as there are a total of 71 dialysis units in the UK."
   Where did the number "71" come from?

5. It will more comprehensible if the authors explain more about "the randomized withdrawal trial" and "1 month on and 1 month off method" with references, which are described in the discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

None