Reviewer's report

Title: Opportunities to improve patient care: results of a systematic investigation of renal registries

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2015

Reviewer: Guillermo Javier Rosa Diez

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Major Compulsory Revisions

a) This work is interesting. It has the intent of providing a tool for those who wish to research on the current situation of the Epidemiology of CKD patients undergoing RRT. Nevertheless, the methodology and contents should be considered in order to achieve the proposed goal.

b) Even though the subjectivity in data evaluation (registries) is acknowledged, this could constitute a methodological error. It affects the quality of the data obtained and its assessment. How many reviewers (more than one?) analyzed each registry? Once assessment was made, were the different evaluations for each registry compared?

c) With regards to accessibility, how was communication with representatives of each registry assured? The text makes reference to three emails sent to those responsible for each registry; was this uniform for all registries? Were any of the registries contacted via telephone without sending emails?

d) Below you will find detailed information on how to consult the websites and obtain the necessary data needed to make corrections:

The Argentina Registry of Chronic Dialysis and the National Registry of ESRD (SINTRA) is the same group constituted by Sociedad Argentina de Nefrologia (SAN) and INCUCAI (Central National Institute Unique Coordinator of Ablation and Implant of Argentina). Therefore, the data shown on table 3 presenting these as two separate registries is inaccurate. SINTRA (Argentine National Information System) is the database dependent on INCUCAI. It is easy to access through its website. This opposes the assessment made by the investigators. You will find the data and variables analyzed in this work (patient level data availability, treatments in table 2) and you will be able to get real-time information on the number of patients as well as level data availability and current treatments. This tool has been available since 2004. SAN and INCUCAI present an annual report since 2004, accessible on the webpages of INCUCAI and SAN. This information has been used to develop a guideline on CKD (http://www.msal.gov.ar/images/stories/bes/graficos/0000000069cnt-2012-08-02_guia-prevencion-deteccion-precoz-enfermedad-renal-cronica-adultos.pdf).

For further information: Sociedad Argentina de Nefrología
Contact email for Sociedad Argentina de Nefrología: san@san.org.ar Should be adressed to the president: Dr. Claudio Mascheroni, requesting information on the Argentine Registry of Chronic Dialysis.

sergio.marinovich@gmail.com addressed to Dr. Sergio Marinovich (coordinator of the Argentina Registry of Chronic Dialysis).

The Uruguayan Registry of Dialysis (RUD) is one of the oldest and most complete worldwide renal registry. It contains all data and variables used in this study (patient level data availability, treatments in table 2 and 3) and also includes an analysis of treatment quality parameters for each dialysis center, only seen in other few registries.

Reference to renal replacement modality report (in table 3), Uruguay has not home-dialysis. I invite researchers to read this register, you can be found detail of treatment data in annual reports and/or you can make contact with coordinator’s registry.

Link RUD http://nefrouruguay.com/registro-de-dialisis/, which is fully accessible. There are all reports included the year 2011 that was published last year and will soon be ready the report of 2012 on this web. You can contact Dra. Carlota Gonzalez, Coordinator of RUD, ereude@netgate.com.uy.

I do not agree in the discussion regarding the efforts made at the regional level for the development of national registries dialysis and transplantation. The Latin American Dialysis and Renal Transplant Registry (RLADTR) was founded in 1991; it collects data from 20 country clubs, all members of the Latin American Society of Nephrology and Hypertension. It has published several reports and Its continuity has implied a sustained effort of the Entire Latin American nephrology community. Last year the Latin American Society of Dialysis and Transplantation (SLANH) established an agreement with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), gave seminars for the creation and/or improvement renal registries of Latin America, the first seminar was the in Costa Rica (October 15), attended Central American countries such as Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala and Santo Domingo. Recently SLANH has made an agreement with ERA-EDTA, for the development of ERA-EDTA / SLANH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FELLOWSHIPS, for your renal registry staff training. Fellowship is designed to enable young nephrologist living in Latin America Countries, lowest are interested in setting up or Further Developing a regional or national registry, to train in clinical epidemiology at the ERA-EDTA Registry in Amsterdam.

For more details you can contact them RLADTR mail reference (see below).

RLADTR had more publications easily accessible via PubMed


Contact Latin American Dialysis and Transplant Registry: registro@slanh.org

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

Member of International Society of Nephrology
Member of Latin America Society of Nephrology and Hypertension
Member of Argentina Society of Nephrology
Member of Argentina Registry of Chronic Dialysis (SAN/SINTRA)
Co-Coodinator of Latin American Dialysis and Transplantation Registry