

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Efficacy of coenzyme Q10 in patients with chronic kidney disease: protocol for a systematic review
AUTHORS	Xu, Yongxing; Liu, Juan; Han, Enhong; Wang, Yan; Gao, jianjun

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Abolfazl Akbari Colorectal Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
REVIEW RETURNED	05-Feb-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	The reviewer completed the checklist but made no further comments.
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REVIEWER	Arrigo Francesco Giuseppe Cicero University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
REVIEW RETURNED	05-Feb-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	I've read with attention the paper of Xu et al. that is well-written and potentially of interest. The methodology proposed is overall correct. I think that the authors should enrich the paper conclusion with some line on the risk of study failure. In fact, even if the authors have not yet carried out a systematic review, they should have done a preliminary literature analysis to understand if the argument merits a deeper study or less. I fear that a few studies have directly tested the CoQ10 effects in CKD patients, while the most studies report cumulative data on CKD and non-CKD patients: this could be limit the more advanced statistical analysis of the available trials.
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REVIEWER	Victoria K Campbell Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Queensland, Australia
REVIEW RETURNED	04-Apr-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	This is an area of interest, and as a nephrologist I already have numerous CKD patients who are taking CoQ10 based on public information. My only concern is that the volume of data you get may be insufficient to reach a conclusion, as you have alluded to, but that will be identified as you progress. I recommend accept with the following minor revisions:
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	-items 10 and 11a from the PRISMA-P protocol need a little more detail
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Abolfazl Akbari

Institution and Country: Colorectal Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Response: None declared

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': "None declared"

Please leave your comments for the authors below

None.

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Arrigo Francesco Giuseppe Cicero

Institution and Country: University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared

Response: None declared

Please leave your comments for the authors below

I've read with attention the paper of Xu et al. that is well-written and potentially of interest. The methodology proposed is overall correct. I think that the authors should enrich the paper conclusion with some line on the risk of study failure. In fact, even if the authors have not yet carried out a systematic review, they should have done a preliminary literature analysis to understand if the argument merits a deeper study or less. I fear that a few studies have directly tested the CoQ10 effects in CKD patients, while the most studies report cumulative data on CKD and non-CKD patients: this could be limit the more advanced statistical analysis of the available trials.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. Some lines have been added in the discussion section. In cases where it is not possible to pool data through meta-analysis, we will present outcome data in a narrative way (BMJ Open. 2018. PMID:29326186; BMJ Open. 2018. PMID: 29626050), which will be a likely limitation. The existing evidence may be insufficient to make some robust conclusions; however, the results of this systematic review will provide important additional information relevant to the design of future trials. Moreover, A updated systematic review will be conducted if appropriate in future work.

Reviewer: 3

Reviewer Name: Victoria K Campbell

Institution and Country: Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Queensland, Australia

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': none declared

Response: None declared

Please leave your comments for the authors below

This is an area of interest, and as a nephrologist I already have numerous CKD patients who are taking CoQ10 based on public information. My only concern is that the volume of data you get may be insufficient to reach a conclusion, as you have alluded to, but that will be identified as you progress.

Response: Just as you mentioned, there may be insufficient data to make conclusions on the effect of CoQ10 in CKD patients. Anyway, the results of this systematic review will provide important additional information relevant to the design of future trials. Moreover, A updated systematic review will be conducted if appropriate in our future work. Some lines have been added in the discussion section.

I recommend accept with the following minor revisions:

-items 10 and 11a from the PRISMA-P protocol need a little more detail

Response: Search strategy in Medline has been submitted as supplementary material (items 10 from the PRISMA-P protocol). The details of managing records and data has been added in the method section with under the sub-heading ' Records and data management ' (items 11a from the PRISMA-P protocol).