**SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 2**

**Table 1. Baseline characteristics for entire cohort enrolled in CONTRAST (N=714) and the Hepcidin cohort (N=405).**

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|  | **Entire cohort (N=714)** | **Hepcidin cohort (N=405)** |
| ***Patient characteristics*** |
| Male gender – % (no.)  | 62 (445) | 62 (252) |
| Age (years) | 64.1 ± 13.7 | 63.7 ± 13.9  |
| Caucasian race – % (no.) | 84 (600) | 82 (333) |
| Dialysis vintage (years) | 2.0 (1.0-4.0) | 1.8 (0.9-3.4)  |
| Cause of renal failure - % (no.) |  |  |
| - vascular | 28 (200) | 32 (131) |
| -diabetes mellitus | 19 (136) | 16 (63) |
| - tubulointerstitial nephritis/ glomerulo-nephritis / multisystem disease | 25 (181) | 24 (96) |
| - cystic disease | 7 (53) | 7 (28) |
| - other/unknown | 21 (144) | 21(87) |
| Diabetes mellitus – % (no.) | 24 (170) | 21 (85) |
| History of cardiovascular disease – % (no.) | 44 (313) | 44 (177) |
| Current smoker – % (no.) | 19 (136) | 20 (81) |
| Body weight (kg)b | 72.4 ± 14.4 | 71.7 ± 14.6 |
| Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)c | 147 ± 21 | 142 ± 18 |
| Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)c | 75 ± 12 | 73 ± 11 |
| BMI (kg/m2) | 25.4 ± 4.4 | 25.0 ± 4.8  |
| Residual diuresis – % (no.)d | 53 (376) | 57 (230) |
| eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m2)e | 3.2 (1.3-5.5) | 2.6 (1.2-5.1)  |
| ***Treatment characteristics*** |
| Treatment frequency 3x/week – % (no.) | 94 (668) | 93 (375) |
| Treatment time (min) | 226 ± 23 | 227 ± 23  |
| Bloodflow (mL/min) | 302 ± 39 | 298 ± 39 |
| Dialysis access – % (no.) |  |  |
| - fistula | 80 (567) | 84 (339) |
| - graft | 14 (100) | 14 (56) |
| - central catheter | 6 (47) | 2 (10) |
| spKt/V (per dialysis) | 1.41 ± 0.24 | 1.39 ± 0.20  |
| Dialyzer – % (no.) |  |  |
| - polysulfone | 62 (439) | 61 (246) |
| - polyarylethersulfone | 36 (260) | 37 (147) |
| - other | 2 (15) | 3 (12) |
| Prescription of ESA- % (no.) | 89 (633) | 90 (364) |
| Type of ESA – % (no.) |  |  |
| - darbepoetin α | 72 (458) | 70 (254) |
| - epoetin α/β | 28 (175) | 30 (110) |
| ESA dose (DDD/week)f | 8.9 (4.4-13.3) | 8.9 (6.0-15.4)  |
| Use of iron replacement therapy – % (no.) | 66 (471) | 74 (300) |
| Irondose (mg/week)g | 50 (23-100) | 100 (50-100) |
| Prescription of RAS inhibitors – % (no.) | 49 (349) | 53 (215) |
| Prescription of statin – % (no.) | 32 (231) | 33 (134) |
| ***Laboratory parameters*** |
| Hemoglobin (g/dL) | 11.8 ± 1.3 | 11.9 ± 1.3 |
| Hematocrit | 0.36 ± 0.04 | 0.36 ± 0.04 |
| MCV (fl) | 94.8 ± 6.2 | 94.9 ± 6.2 |
| Reticulocytes (x109/L) | 65.6 ± 31.3 | 65.3 ± 30.5 |
| Ferritin (ng/mL) | 339 (193-587) | 378 (211-631) |
| TSAT (%) | 24.1 ± 11.4 | 24.3 ± 12.4 |
| sTfR (mg/L)h | NA | 1.58 (1.24-2.11) |
| Cholesterol (mg/dL) | 141.4 ± 36.8 | 143.1 ± 38.7 |
| Albumin (g/dL) | 3.7 ± 0.5 | 3.6 ± 0.5 |
| hsCRP (mg/L) | NA | 3.95 (1.38-10.41) |
| Il-6 (pg/mL) | NA | 2.06 (1.21-3.82) |
| Hepcidin-20 (nM) | NA | 6.3 (3.9-9.3) |
| Hepcidin-25 (nM)i | NA | 13.8 (6.6-22.5) |

aValues represent mean ± SD, median (interquartile range) or % (absolute numbers).

bWeight after dialysis (dry weight) defined as the mean of three consecutive values

cMean of pre-dialysis blood pressure of three consecutive dialysis sessions.

dDefined as >100 mL per day

eeGFR (estimated glomerular filtration rate) calculated as mean of creatinine and urea clearance in 24h urine collection adjusted for body surface area, exclusively in patients with residual renal function.

fIn patients on ESA therapy.

gIn patients on iron therapy.

hReference value: 0.76-1.76 mg/L (Dade Behring Marburg GmbH, Marburg, Germany).

iReference value with WCX-TOF MS method (median [95% range]): men 65-69 years 5.3 (<0.05-13.9); women 65-69 years 4.9 (<0.05-14.2).