

# Review of: "Serological detection strategy and prevalence of HIV and Viral Hepatitis B and C in blood donors in Yaoundé Cameroon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors discuss a very important public health issue in Cameroon, which is the high prevalence of HIV, HBV and HCV viruses in blood bags throughout the country. I appreciate the opportunity to review the paper. Below are my notes.

## Methodology:

Explain further the screening of patients, what inclusion and exclusion criteria were used. Did the patients fill out a questionnaire? Was the work accepted by the ethics committee? In what period was the patients' blood obtained? What motivated sending two samples to France? The authors can make this more evident and explain more clearly the purpose of the techniques used.

## Results:

Include in the text the percentage of the sex of the donors.

The authors could explore this section more.

What were the patients asked while answering the questionnaire? Just gender and age? According to what information was obtained during the initial stages of the work, it might be possible to obtain more socio-demographic and behavioral information from these patients.

## Discussion:

'Although articles published in recent years show that significant change has been made in settings where WHO guidelines and quality system have been implemented, blood safety is still an important issue in Cameroon.' - what changes?

In this scenario, HBV screening depends only on HBsAg detection - is there another test performed? Remember that there is hidden hepatitis that may go unnoticed in these cases.

From the demographic data of the individuals who had positive serology it is possible to explore the discussion further.

"From the 1072 HBsAg negative participants, 522 were positive for HBcAb (48.8%) and the frequency of HBcAb only positive donors was 44.4% (516/1162)." - In this sentence only the results were exposed, but are there any previous works or government data suggesting the major form of transmission and the risk practices these groups exert? What

measures can be taken to prevent transmission among this population?

**Conclusion:**

The conclusion should be more succinct, so that the reader can understand what was found in the paper in an objective manner.

"This study clearly showed a high prevalence of HBV but lower prevalences of HIV and HCV among Cameroonian blood donors at the YUTH, but the trends of viral infections were lower than those observed in the same setting by Tayou Tagny et al. in 2009." - Rewrite. Why was there this reduction? What measures were taken to make this happen? I think the strategy of recruiting more volunteers helps, but the heart of the issue, which is the high prevalence of hepatitis B, C, and AIDS should be explored further.

Best regards!