

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

Sophie Uyoga<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper gives an update on the status of TTI prevalence in Cameroonian blood donors.

## **Background**

The second half of the first statement doesn't link with the first half of the statement.

## **Materials and Methods**

When were the samples collected? The time period needs to be stated.

Pg-3 - "Two aliquots of recruited donor were made and stored", this should be referring to serum or plasma samples.

There is need to state the information that was collected on the questionnaire.

What equipment were the used to process the ELISAs in Cameroon and France?

Results for western blot are reported but the assay has not been described.

How were the 1071 HBsAg negative samples tested tested for HBcAg?

## **Results**

Description of sex of donors should be presented as percentage.

Page 4 – "donors with known status for HBsAb, HIV Ab and HCV Ab)

Page 5 – Prevalence for HIV and HCV have been interchanged

Table 1 There needs to be a general description of the age profiles of all the donors before the TTI screening results. Add a column for all samples next to the characteristics.

## **Discussion**

Can the age groups be classified in a similar manner as was done in the Tagny study that the authors refer to so that they can be comparable.

Paragraph 3 – 35.5% benevolent, do you mean voluntary donors?

What does the prevalence of HBcAb of 48.8% mean? What does this mean to the current screening algorithm.

How do the results of the study compare to other studies done in the country after the Tagny 2009 publication.

“ the implementation of WHO recommendations in terms of screening blood donations for TTIs and also the implementation of the standards of the African Society for Blood Transfusion”. These statement needs further discussion on what exactly has been implemented and how it has contributed to the decline.

What are the existing gaps and what further work needs to be done? What confirmatory testing do the authors recommend and how should it be done?

### **General Comments**

1. the manuscript has a lot of typos
2. The last sentence in the discussion has been repeated in the conclusion.
3. The anti-HbC abbreviation has also been repeated
4. Other references - this one should be part of the references