

Review of: "Sero-prevalence of Viral Hepatitis B and C infection and associated factors among Pregnant Women in Southeast Ethiopia: Community-based crossectional study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article presents data on the detection rates of HBV and HCV infection based on serological testing of pregnant women. This group is a high-risk group for the transmission of HBV and HCV to their babies, who are at a greater risk for developing chronic infection and its complications. The data presented is interesting. However, there are some comments.

Introduction

1. The following statement is not completely true - not all 5 hepatitis viruses cause both acute and chronic infections.
Please correct. "Types A, B, C, D, and E are the five main hepatitis virus strains that can cause both acute and long-term liver infections."
2. Please provide the hepatitis B vaccine coverage of the efforts to integrate it into EPI.
3. Please elaborate - does the aim to determine the "associated factors" imply the determination of risk factors?

Methods

1. The interpretation of active HCV is not completely correct - HCV antibodies are detected in individuals exposed to HCV but who have cleared the infection.
2. Please indicate how the test validity for quality control was done.
3. Please explain how the invalid test results were managed.
4. Please explain how the confidentiality of the women's results was managed.

Results

1. Please check the calculation, i.e., 160 (39.0%) were residents of Café Donsa Kebele, 301 (73.4%) were of Oromo ethnicity - n=461.
2. Please clarify what overall serological prevalence implies and its application to this study.
3. Please note the following statement belongs under data analysis. - "Binary logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with the occurrence of the Hepatitis B virus among pregnant women. Accordingly, variables with a P value < 0.25 in binary logistic regression were declared as a candidate for multivariable logistic regression."

From multivariable logistic regression, an adjusted odds ratio with 95% confidence intervals was computed. Those variables with p-value <0.05 were declared as a factor significantly associated with the sero status of hepatitis B."

4. Please be consistent - serostatus or sero status

Discussion

1. Please note the use of prevalence is incorrect, i.e., "prevalence of HBsAg in this study". Please be consistent.
2. Please use the following words correctly and be consistent - the prevalence rate and seroprevalence.
3. Please explain why it was not possible to use other markers to differentiate between acute and chronic infection.

Consider including this under study limitations.

4. Please explain the significance of co-infection for this study.

Conclusion

1. Please correct the spelling of HBsAg (in the article is written as HBsAgn) and in other areas of the article, and Anti-HCV vs Anti HCV.

Overall comment

1. The article requires proofreading and editing (i.e., spelling and inconsistencies).