

# 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.

Viral hepatitis, particularly viral hepatitis B and C infections, is a major public health threat.

Therefore, I acknowledge the authors for working to add more insights in this field.

With this in mind, I have the following comments, questions, and concerns:

## METHODS

**Population:** the authors stated that they conducted the study among pregnant women;

1. Why did the authors choose pregnant women?

Pregnant women can already get the screening service as part of the routine ANC service. at health facilities.

## Study Setting:

The authors stated that they conducted a community-based study.

2. Why did the authors conduct a community-based study?

I can't understand why the authors conducted this study at the community level because the great majority of these women are expected to be on ANC follow-up at health facilities.

3. **Study area:** the authors also stated that they conducted the study among urban communities in Robe Town: urban communities have better awareness, alternatives, and access to quality health care as compared to rural communities.

Therefore, why didn't the authors conduct this study in a rural community?

3. The authors didn't explain how they accessed their source population (pregnant women) in the general population. The general population is not an appropriate source population for this study. Hence, the authors should have conducted a pre-study survey to identify pregnant women in the community and generate a sampling frame.
4. What did the authors do for the study participants whose test results were positive?

It is unethical to leave the study participants with a positive result without treatment.

3. The authors have included many teenagers in their study (58 participants were in the age range of 15–19). Taking informed consent from them, especially for < 18 years, is against ethical standards and violates the Declaration of Helsinki.
4. It is not clear how the authors claimed to diagnose HCV positivity only by anti-HCV antibodies without confirming with a nucleic acid test (ribonucleic acid-RNA).