

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.

General comments:

- Anti-HCV testing does not confirm current infection with HCV, it indicates previous and current infection (and not acute or chronic as stated in the methodology), so positively tested patients should be confirmed by qualitative RT-PCR. Results of Anti-HCV should not be used in estimation of HCV prevalence because it could indicate previous infection of HCV. The rate here should be referred to as "infection at some point in time (either previously or currently).
- Typo "HBsAg" and not "HBsAgn"

Specific comments:

- The study design:
 - It is unclear how the pregnant women were selected and contacted,
 - This design is multistage random sampling and not systematic random sampling?
 - Where were the women contacted? At home or PHUs?
 - How were the pregnant women in each of the selected kebeles identified? Is there a sampling frame that includes all pregnant women?
 - What was the total number of pregnant women in the three selected kebeles to define an interval of 2?
 - What is the registration system of pregnant women in Ethiopia?
- Please indicate how the wealth index was calculated?
- Please indicate what was the period between the exposure to the risk factors and the interview? I mean when asking the subject what was the period you asked about (within last six months or lifelong exposure?)
- Better to differentiate the Risk factors into healthcare-associated and lifestyle related risk factors in the results and discussion sections.
- Better to develop a table for the bivariate analysis (HBV and HCV) and another table for binary logistic regression (HBV and HCV) to indicate the exact significant risk factors excluding the confounders.
- In the discussion and conclusion sections, please do not repeat the numbers and percents previously mentioned in the results and in the tables

- Please elaborate on the healthcare system and the blood transfusion system in Ethiopia and the policy in the facilities providing this service