

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 importance of prevalence studies for infectious diseases and the risk factors for their progression or obstacles has always been discussed at the global health level. However, the methodology used to improve the reliability of the results of these studies was vague. The items mentioned below can be effective for researchers to clarify the results and use them in future studies:

- 1- There was a difference in the blood volume in the abstract (3 ml) compared with the method section (5 ml). Please correct the text and make them similar.
- 2- In terms of chronic HBV infection, we are faced with occult hepatitis B infection (OBI), in which the authors differentiate and recognize this condition because in this condition, the patient is a carrier of the virus, but HBS Ag cannot be identified, except with molecular methods.
- 3- Confirmation of a positive HCV result was confirmed using the RIBA test. For the value of the study results, if the test is done, it must be mentioned in the text.
- 4- Although the sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic strip were acceptable, due to the presence of various mutations in the MHR region, especially the "a determinant" region of the surface antigen (HBS Ag), the kit used should be based on polyclonal antibodies in order to easily evaluate and identify HBS Ag mutants that evade detection. What measures have been taken to address this issue?
- 5- The characteristics and name of the used diagnostic kit, along with its working mechanism, should be mentioned in the text (Is it based on the ELISA method?)
- 6- The limitations related to this study should be stated at the end of the dissertation, and it should be explained what can be done in future studies to improve and promote forward conversations.
- 7- One of the most important strategies in the prevention of HBV outbreaks is vaccination. Unfortunately, this was not mentioned in the results. What percentage of people with a positive HBS Ag test had received the vaccine, how many doses had been administered, or what the association was between the ineffectiveness of the vaccine and the variables examined in the study?

