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From: XXX YYY<xxx@yyy.zzz>

Sent: Mon, Mar 4, 2013 at 5:37 PM

To: Managing Editor

Subject: Manuscript on HBV prevalence among pregnant women by Mortada Hassan EL-Shabrawi et all.

The study by El Shabrawi et all. Focuses on the prevalence of HBsAg among 2000 egyptian pregnant women. The paper is not at all innovative and deserves several major criticisms.

1. The study was a cross sectional one. Authors claimed that women were chosen randomly, along 14 months, among those attending the Ostetric Dept. for HBV screening. Amazingly however, also women aware of their HBsAg positivity were included (page 3 lines 16-18). Thus, the selection was not at all random! Even more amazingly, the actual number of those already tested positive for HBsAg is not at all reported! That represents a terrific recruitment bias definitely precluding paper consideration.

2. Results section. Line 2: 35/2000 tested positive at rapid test but 32 were actually confirmed =1.6%.

Line 4: "thirty-five confirmed HBsAg positive"?! that is clearly in contrast with the previous statement, denoting the lack of any accurate paper re-reading.

Page 5 lines 1-2: controls were chosen according to a ratio of 2:1. The number of true positive is 32, thus, once again, the number of controls should have been 64 and not 70.

3. Results should have been condensed into few lines and the repetition of data should have been avoided. Accordingly, table 1 is useless as table 2 (data are already in the text), table 3 (as before), table 5 and table 6.

4. Data from table 4 should be limited to those data actually potentially relevant (lines 2-3-4-5 and 6), deserving appropriate comments in the text.

Overall, a very poor article, unsuitable for any further consideration.

Note: Anonymous Reviewer