



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_7951
Title of the Manuscript:	Seroprevalence and relative risk of HBsAg among female patients seeking healthcare service in Bo Government Hospital, Sierra Leone: 14-months database study
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Author provided the data of HBsAg prevalence among female patient seeking health service in Bo government hospital, suggests that high positive rate of HBsAg (47.52%) among female health seekers at Bo government hospital in Sierra Leone, during May 2012 to June 2013. Such high rate definite should be paid more attention by local health authority and stakeholders in Sierra Leone, and public intervention should be taken as soon. However, the study suffers from the poor study designing, quality control, and data analysis. The weakness might influence it acceptable for publishing. 1. The structure of abstract is not appropriately, suggest reference the guideline of journal. 2. Line 42-43: didn't understand what mean of "HBsAg vaccination" , guess may be "Hepatitis B vaccination". If so, it has some overlap with word "Immunization". 3. Line 51-53, author did not mention the mother to children transmission issue, which contributed transmission mainly in HBV high endemicity areas.	Data now readjusted. Results and analysis now involves comparing study with similar studies conducted in geographically similar region. Abstract rewritten in line with journal guideline and grammatical mistakes corrected. 'Immunization' removed from the manuscript. Text



SDI Review Form 1.6

	4. Line 64, “Bo is the..... “ should be move to background. 5. Line 66, how many centers have participated the study totally in Bo city? Please clarify. 6. What is including criteria and what excluding criteria for study population? 7. Line 107-112, can author provide the cross table to look at the detail by age, marriage and pregnant status? What rate for female by age and status of pregnant of adults (>18)? 8. Line 145, this is a retrospectively study, therefore author could calculate the OR, not RR Value. Suggest to consult a statistical expert. 9. Line 154-155, please aware that 90% of infant infections will develop into chronic and only 10%	now reads: The high seroprevalence of HBsAg among adult females emphasize the need for a robust public health preventive and control measures including the use of HBsAg vaccination as well as routine blood screening as a means of reducing the spread of the infection. Line 51-56 rewritten thus: Vertical transmission which involves the spread of HBV from mother to their fetus also plays an important role in maintaining the transmission cycle of the infection in most parts of Africa where healthcare facilities such as regular blood screening and diagnosis are mostly inadequate. Line 64 moved to Background section.
--	---	---



SDI Review Form 1.6

	of adult develops into chronic, so, such high infection rate of HBsAg cannot be explained by horizon transmission only. 10. Author should provided the table of risk analysis and always set the reference as OR=1.	Line 66 readjusted thus: This study is a multicenter investigation that was conducted at the Bo Government Hospital laboratory, Department of Community Health and Clinical Sciences and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Njala University in Bo southern Sierra Leone. Sex was the main criteria for inclusion in this study irrespective of the subject's age, whether or not subject is pregnant or a lactating mother or a girl child. See Line 77 Cross table now adjusted. Seroprevalence per age group and status also included. Statistics per status and age compared in
--	---	--



SDI Review Form 1.6

		Results and Discussions Sections. Our study objective adjusted and now only determines and later compares HBsAg seroprevalence rates among categories of study subjects and that of other similar HBsAg seroprevalence studies were conducted in Sierra Leone. Comment noted. We have included other factors that determines HBsAg infection rate including that of vertical transmission. Observation noted and vertical transmission now included in the text.
--	--	--



SDI Review Form 1.6

<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		