Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiologic study of chronic hepatitis B virus infection in male volunteer blood donors in Karachi, Pakistan

Version: 3 Date: 16 April 2005

Reviewer: Ajay Duseja

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

In the discussion authors have confused the whole issue by stating that HBeAg is a test for acute HBV infection. Instead IgM anti HBc is a test for acute HBV hepatitis and though HBeAg is positive in acute HBV hepatitis it is used to look for viral replication in acute and chronic HBV hepatitis. Anyway the point here is not to bring in the discussion of acute hepatitis but What I had asked was to mention as limitation of their study the importance of ALT, anti HBc and HBV DNA as markers of occult HBV infection which they have not done in this study.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'