Reviewer's report

Title: The risk of perinatal hepatitis B virus transmission: Hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) prevalence estimates for all world regions.

Version: 1 Date: 25 April 2012

Reviewer: Andrew Hall

Reviewer's report:

This is an important and timely study given that global epidemiology is changing with the emergence of perinatal HBV transmission playing an increasing role in the post-vaccination world. There are no major revisions required in my opinion. However a few minor ones:

1. p3 line 6 the term "determined" is used when associated or strongly associated would be more appropriate
2. P3 3rd line from bottom - "risk has been explained by" is an odd phrase for what is a descriptive statement - perhaps better The age-dependent risk has a low ....
3. page 4 end of top paragraph "lacking general awareness" should be 'the lack of general awareness'
4. page 5 5th line "national infections disease..." should be 'national infectious disease'
5. page 5 3rd para: Some outline of the method of rating quality based on these criteria would be helpful to the reader
6. page 9: last sentence top para should read: The relatively stable HBeAg prevalence in SSA could thus imply less impact of vaccination and primary prevention of HBV infection.
7. Page 9 second para: line 6 - drawback should be drawbacks and HBsAg positives should be HBsAg positive
8. Page 9 3rd line from bottom subsequently should be subsequent.
9. Page 10 last sentence second para: geographically should be geographical

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests