Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and trends of markers of Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus and Human Immunodeficiency virus in Argentine blood donors

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Reviewer: Marcelo A Soares

Reviewer's report:

The study by Flichman et al. describes a nationwide survey of transfusion-transmitted infections (HIV, HCV, HBV) among blood donors in Argentina over an 8-year period (2004-2011). Using standard serological markers and nucleic acid testing for a subset of samples, the authors draw trendlines of infection by those viruses in the Argentinian population. They report a decrease in the prevalence of HCV and HBV, and a maintainance of HIV over the period analyzed. The authors also report some features on the prevalence of TTI in particular age groups and on the specificity of the tests used in the country.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

- There are several statements in the Background section which indeed should be in Discussion, such as paragraphs # 3 and 6. Authors should make those amendments.

- The period included in the retrospective study is wide (2004-2011). Although this interval of analysis allowed time trends to be drawn, behavioral and laboratory test effectiveness factors may change during such a wide span, precluding a fair comparison between the years analyzed. Authors should discuss such limitation more markedly in the manuscript.

- Figures 1B and 3B should become Tables.

- English style should be revised throughout the manuscript, preferably by a native speaker.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.