Reviewer’s report

Title: Serological disease status of Pakistani population infected with Hepatitis B

Version: 3 Date: 6 March 2007

Reviewer: Pietro Luigi Lopalco

Reviewer’s report:

General
The paper is valuable, providing new evidence on the endemicity status of a Country traditionally considered at low endemicity for HBV.

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

Statistical Analysis:
(1) I suggest to use logistic regression to assess the role of sex, residence and social status in determining HBsAg seropositivity.
(2) The sentence “Comparison of various serological assays was determined by Chi-square test” is not completely clear: what has been compared to what?
(3) More information is required on sampling method and on the power of the study.
(4) 95% confidence intervals could be provided, in order to estimate the seroprevalence level in the population.

Results and Discussion:
(1) I believe it is important to clearly divide anti-HbsAg positive people between anti-HBcAg positive and negative, to better clarify the role of vaccination, in each age group.
(2) Table 1 should be re-drafted. It would be better to show results including multivariate analysis. As an alternative, one table could provide data on serological status of the whole sample (divided by age groups?) and a second table could be added, showing results from multivariate analysis on risk factors (including gender).
(3) HBV coverage data should be provided, if available.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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