Reviewer’s report

Title: Hepatitis B virus screening trends in a large US cancer center

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Reviewer: Mitsuru Mori

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This is a retrospective study of hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening trends in a large US cancer center. The manuscript is well written showing recent trends of screening for HBV in patients with cancer chemotherapy. However, following several comments should be clearly ascertained.

Major comments:

1. Title of the manuscript. Because this paper focused on recent trends of screening for HBV in patients with cancer chemotherapy, a title of manuscript should include words ‘chemotherapy’, like their previous paper (reference # 13).

2. Page 4, Line 3# (Introduction). The authors should mention about incidence rates of fulminant hepatitis or liver dysfunction among cancer patients after chemotherapy in US, if available. Then, recommendation of screening for HBV before chemotherapy would be recognized as being important to reduce incidence rates of these diseases.

3. Page 4, Line 19# (Methods), Tables 2, 3 & 4. Page 9, Line 3#(Discussion). In their previous study (reference # 13), they defined HBV risk factors as patients at least one ICD-9 codes related to nonspecific hepatitis, other liver conditions, hepatitis C virus, or human immunodeficiency virus infection. However, in their present article, they defined HBV risk factors as patients born in moderate-to-high prevalence region, patients with drug abuse or sexually transmitted disease in addition to the previous criteria. The reasons should be clarified why they changed the criteria, and it should be stated how the results of HBV risk factors were changed by the new criteria.

Minor comments:


5. Page 8, Line 20 (Results). ‘The odds’ may be ‘The odds ratio’.