Reviewer's report

Title: Risk of HCV/HIV co-infection and HCV mono-infection among injecting drug users in a methadone maintenance treatment program in Taipei, Taiwan

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Reviewer: Tony S.H. Lee

Reviewer's report:

This report investigates risks of HCV/HIV co-infection and HCV mono-infection, as compared with seronegativity, among injecting drug users (IDUs) at a large methadone maintenance treatment program (MMTP) in Taipei, Taiwan. This is an important and interesting topic worldwide and few studies have been conducted to reveal the co-infection risks. There are some suggestions regarding this manuscript.

Major revisions:

1. The Abstract first sentence emphasize that ‘Taiwan has a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic that has recently shifted to injection drug users (IDUs).’ Well, this might be true before 2007 but as authors cited in instruction that the numbers associated with injection drug user has slowed for the past 5 years, with the newly reported cases among IDUs dropped sharply to 115 infected IDUs for the year of 2011.

2. Background: It is obviously that authors did not review articles related to behaviors that transmit HIV and HCV amongst drug users in literature. In addition, the second sentence ‘HCV and HIV are the principal causes of morbidity and mortality in this population.’ needs citations since I am not sure this is true after considering overdose, suicide, and accidents associated with drug dependence. Moreover, for the last paragraph, I would suggest that authors specify the reasons about disclosing factors related to HIV/HCV co-infections in clinical practices in addition to few studies has been conducted in this topic.

3. Methods: I suggest that authors explain why chose the HIV and HCV seronegative group as the reference? There is no way to know what factors differentiated HIV/HCV coinfection and HCV mono-infection when authors tried to explain in discussion that associated risk factors were different.

4. Although authors have explained risk factors of HIV/HCV coinfection that they found in this paper, discussion and suggestion may need to go deeper instead just mentioned the results are consistent to other studies. Authors need to articulate how and why their study findings are important and in what way can help HIV/HCV coinfection patients? Or is there any comprehensive policy suggestion for the prevention of HIV/HCV coinfection?

Minor suggestions:

1. Page 7 authors mentioned that methadone is free for heroin patients. Is this true in Taiwan?
2. Page 10 first line the authors set the type III error (alpha) 0.10 in bivariate analysis. Can the authors explain why 0.10?

3. English editing may be necessary.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.