Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and risk factors of hepatitis B and C virus infections among the general population and blood donors in Morocco

Version: 2 Date: 16 October 2012

Reviewer: Mohamed Abdel-Hamid

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
- It is well written.
- This is a general survey of HBsAg and anti-HCV in general population and blood donors in Morocco.
- I don't believe they can say the seroprevalence is "alarmingly high" since it is based upon older blood donors and is rather low.
- They have left out the percentages in table 2.
- The authors mentioned that there is a confirmation by RIBA in blood bank but they did not mention how the results were adjusted according to the RIBA results.

In Background:
- Remove the last line of the 3rd paragraph starting with "These antibodies are present in ....." as it is irrelevant.
- Rephrase the last 2 lines of the 4th paragraph
- Add relevant reference to the last statement in the 4th paragraph (background)

In Methods:
Remove the word "among" after Morocco
Remove the word "to" before "interview."
Change "anti-VHC" to "anti-HCV" after "Murex."
The kits used in the assay in blood bank subjects should be specified. (They only mention a third and fourth generation ELISA.) The same for the PCR methodology.

In Results:
It is better to change the word "processed" to "tested."
You can remove "On the whole" before the seroprevalence.
The paragraph starting with In terms of seropositivity needs to be rephrased in
better English.
The last paragraph in 2- blood donors you can remove the word "further."

In Discussion:
Change the word "infections" to "prevalence" in the 2nd line of first paragraph.
Rephrase the last line of the first paragraph (HBV in the causation....)
Change "measurable" to "detectable" viremia in the second paragraph.
In the 3rd paragraph try to mention some specific areas from reference 12-13 instead of the regions in the world in general with adding specific figures.
Change "in keeping with" to "similar to" in the last line of 3rd paragraph.
Change HBIG to hepatitis B immunoglobulin (in the 4th paragraph).

**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