Reviewer's report

Title: Hepatitis B knowledge, perceptions and practices in the French general population: the room for improvement

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2013

Reviewer: Elisabeth MONNET

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Comments to the Authors
This interesting paper reports the first KABP survey regarding Hepatitis B conducted in metropolitan France. The study, performed in 2010 and based on a random sample of 9,014 persons, is carefully designed and analyzed. The paper provides original data about respondents' knowledge of the transmission modes of HBV, their risk perception and their practices concerning HBV screening and vaccination while comparing answers with those obtained for HIV. Comparison with HIV is relevant as both infections have close transmission modes. In addition, the paper includes multivariate analyses in order to identify independent factors related to four dependent variables: having a good level of knowledge about HBV transmission modes, considering oneself to be at higher risk of HBV infection than an average person, self-reported screening for HBV and self-reported HBV vaccination. Results are clearly and concisely reported. The discussion gives interesting insights into context in France regarding epidemiological situation and public health policies for HBV and HIV infections and includes comparative data from other European studies. The study limits and possible biases are briefly mentioned.

Some minor points should be examined:
1. Table 1: the summarizing count of all observations for each tabulated variable is not always 9,014: please indicate numbers of observations with missing data.
2. In multivariate analysis, after adjusting for educational and income levels, self-reporting of HBV screening was more frequent among inhabitants of the Ile de France region than among other respondents, with an adjusted OR of 1.2 95% CI :1.04-1.3 (Table 5). Could the authors comment this result? Was such difference ever found concerning reported HIV screening or other declared preventive health practices as well?
3. The authors report a participation rate of about 66%. Does it correspond to usual values for this kind of phone survey? To what extent some estimates could be altered by non-response bias?

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:**

No competing interest to declare.