Author's response to reviews

Title: Hepatitis B virus infection in Haemodialysis Centres from Santa Catarina State, Southern Brazil. Predictive risk factors for infection and molecular epidemiology.

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Dear Dr. Gadd,

We are very pleased to know that our manuscript has been considered for publication in BMC Public Health. All of the reviewers' suggestions were taken into consideration and are commented below, point-by-point, in red colour.

Moreover, we are willing to provide any further information that may be necessary.

With best wishes,

Prof. Flair Jose Carrilho, MD, PhD.
Reviewer's report
Title: Hepatitis B virus infection in Haemodialysis Centres from Santa Catarina State, Southern Brazil. Predictive risk factors for infection and molecular epidemiology.
Version: Date: 15 December 2003
Reviewer: Juan Rodes
Reviewer's report:
Minor essential revision
The English should be reviewed.
Major compulsory revision
1. From the data provided it is not clear whether this was a prospective study. Yes, the study was prospective; the related information has been added in the edited version.
2. It is not indicated whether the study includes all the haemodialysis centres in the region in Brazil. This information is very important to calculate the real incidence of HBV infection in haemodialysis centres. Yes, all of the 22 centres and their patients (100%) have enrolled in this study. This information is given in two sections (Methods and Discussion).
3. It is not indicated whether the patients had been vaccinated before inclusion in the haemodialysis programme. No, the patients had not been vaccinated before haemodialysis.
4. It is not indicated whether infected patients were dialyzed with a machine exclusively for these patients.
   Yes; HBV patients underwent dialysis on a machine exclusively dedicated to HBV-infected patients.
5. According to the data provided it is essential to establish some recommendations to reduce the spread of HBV infection among haemodialysis patients. Indeed, such recommendations are essential and so were provided in Discussion.
6. The Discussion should be shortened because some paragraphs repeat the same information presented in the Results.
   The Discussion was extensively altered accordingly - shortened and edited.
Accept after minor essential revisions What next?:
An article of importance in its field Level of interest:
Needs some language corrections before being published Quality of written English: The English was thoroughly revised.
No Statistical review:
Declaration of competing interests:
None