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: 1 Date: 5 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.
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.
3. It is not indicated whether the patients had been vaccinated before inclusion in the haemodialysis programme.
4. It is not indicated whether infected patients were dialyzed with a machine exclusively for these patients.
5. According to the data provided it is essential to establish some recommendations to reduce the spread of HBV infection among haemodialysis patients.
6. The Discussion should be shortened because some paragraphs repeat the same information presented in the Results.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None