Reviewer’s report

Title: The Use of Filter Paper as a Transport Medium for Hepatitis B Assays

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Reviewer: Annabelle Servant-Delmas

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors describe the use of filter paper as a transport medium for hepatitis B assays. However it should be revised before being considered suitable for publication, especially concerning the structure of publication and precisions of data. Methods are not well described. The discussion of results with bibliographic data are missing. Two major points are not clearly documented; the sensitivity of immunoassays before and after the process and the possibility or not to see contaminations in the process with high HBsAg titer for example.

Major revisions:

Abstract: In each section (background, methods, results and conclusions), a lack of relevant informations is notable.

For example: in Background paragraph: details on HBV markers as HBc antibodies are missing.

In Methods paragraph: specify the HBV markers and studied specimens patients

Introduction: Provide informations on different clinical stages of HBV infection with serological markers associated (+ add anti-HBc).

Material and methods: Describe in a table for example characteristics of studied population (number of samples, positive and negative HBV markers, stage of infection, volume in the process…)

Describe immunoassays for HBsAg, HBs and HBc Ab in the study with interpretation of results (with positive, negative and equivocal samples, analytical sensitivity…)

Add a paragraph to describe the used statistic methods and their interpretations

Results: Data for each marker in each paragraph are not well described

Figure 2 is not introduced in the text

Discussion: Results are not discussed with regards of others bibliographic studies

Discretionary Revisions:

Abbreviations are used but not correctly introduced: cc; RLU; EDTA

Title: precise “serological assays”
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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