Reviewer’s report

Title: Molecular Epidemiology of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Switzerland: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2015

Reviewer: Margaret Littlejohn

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript describes a retrospective study of the epidemiology of HBV in Switzerland. The authors have collected samples from HBV infected Swiss residents over an eleven year period, including demographic, clinical and co-infection data. Analysis was carried out on both Swiss natives and patients from other regions of the world. The authors have concluded that the molecular epidemiology of HBV infection in Switzerland is driven by migration, as is the case for other low prevalence countries. The manuscript is very well written, and I included only a few suggestions for minor revision that the authors should consider.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) Background: The authors should consider a more recent reference for the worldwide burden of HBV, for example Ott et al, Vaccine 30 (2012) 2212–2219.
2) The authors need to check that reference 29 is correctly cited. In the text, reference 29 refers to European studies, however the reference cited examines Alaskan natives.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.