Reviewer’s report


Version: 0 Date: 07 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Hsin-Yun Sun

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The authors aimed to estimate the prevalence of HBV infection and to detect the factors associated with HBV infection among hill tribe youths in Thailand.

1. In Line 1-2 on Page 4, why were the hill tribe youths aged 15-24 years chosen to be the study population? Where they all born after 1992 when the expanded program of immunization program was launched? Please provide the changes in HBsAg seroprevalence before and after EPI program in Thailand in Introduction.

2. In Line 40-42 on Page 4, I do not think smoking and alcohol drinking are risk behaviors of HBV acquisition.

3. In Line 25-28 on Page 6, the authors said, "different kinds of drugs were detected among...". Were these information obtained from the questionnaire or the results of tests? I do not think smoking and alcohol are drugs. How did they use methamphetamine or marijuana? By injection or inhalation?

4. In Table 2, how did they use heroin, crystal methamphetamine, opium, and marijuana? By injection or inhalation?

5. In Line 7-8, "the prevalence of anti-HBV was 10.2%"? Does anti-HBV equal HBV infection? 10.2% or 10.3%?

6. In Line 46-48 on Page 7, the authors said, "In Taiwan, the seroprevalence of anti-HBsAg and total anti-HBc were 8.1% and increased according to age among, particularly those aged 18-25 years [30]." it seems the whole paragraph described HBsAg seroprevalence from different regions, but why anti-HBsAg and anti-HBc from Taiwan?

7. In Line 7-9 on Page 8, "Another reason, it might be increase of number of people who are exposing with people outside their village (17.1%).". Please cite reference.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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