Reviewer’s report

Title: Nearly half of Ultrio Plus NAT non-discriminated reactive blood donors were identified as occult HBV infection in south China

Version: 1 Date: 19 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Jean-Pierre Allain

Reviewer's report:

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The revised manuscript by Ye et al, has improved but several areas still need improvement.

1. English and spelling in the revisions need attention. For instance, Discussion is misspelled. There are many other mistakes to be corrected.
2. In the Discussion, the discrepancies between results of this study and those from previous studies have not been appropriately addressed. In Table 5, aa substitutions known as related to vaccination, those recognized as frequent in OBI are not clearly indicated and the references supporting this type of classification are not specifically indicated.

The issue of absence of cysteine substitutions in the MHR typical of OBI as well as P120 substitutions has not been clearly addressed.

3. The issue of absence of difference in anti-HBc and anti-HBs in the NDR DNA pos or neg is not sufficiently addressed in the discussion. Anti-HBc is considered in other studies as a critical marker for confirmation but clearly not in this case. This needs specific discussion.
4. The authors should indicate what information and advice they may give deferred donors when they are NDR DNA positive or negative.

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.
Yes

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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