Author’s response to reviews

Title: Sero-Prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus and Associated Factors among Pregnant Women in Gambella Hospital, South Western Ethiopia: Facility based cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor, thank you so much for your valuable support.

AUTHOR’S RESPONSE TO REVIEWER’S COMMENT

Joseph Sasadeusz (Reviewer 1): The most common factor in transmission in endemic countries is vertical and horizontal transmission. As such it is notable that a family history of HBV is not included in the analysis and may have resulted in the other parameters becoming non-significant.

Response: Thank you so much for your valuable comment. Actually it is well known that the most common factor in transmission in endemic countries is vertical and horizontal transmission. However, in our set up there is no family screening to know HBV status. Since our study is facility-based and it is difficult to obtain an information about a family history of HBV status. For this reason we had not included this variable. Would you please kindly consider it.

Bayeh Beyene Abera(Reviwer 2):

Comment 1: Add full stop

Response: Thank you very much for your critical look. We have added full stop(background of the abstract section, line 9).

Comment 2: Correct as 95%
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Result section of the abstract, line 29).

Comment 3: Correct as 95%

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Result section of the abstract, line 31).

Comment 4: Correct as 95%

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Result section of the abstract, line 32).

Comment 6: As this study is not case-control study so you cannot say predictors rather better to re-writ as associated factors

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Conclusion section of the abstract, line 40).

Comment 8: A recent reference needed

Response: Thank you so much for your critical look. We have added a refences (Background section, line 32).

Comment 9: reference needed

Response: Thank you so much for your critical look. We have added a references (Background section, line 41).

Comment 10: needs more elaboration on risk factors and also include a study conducted by Zenebe et al. BMC Infectious Diseases 2014,14:118

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Background section, line 54).

Comment 11: remove technique/ procedure

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Methods section, line 55).

Comment 12: No need to wir the sample size formula

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Methods section, line 8).

Comment 12: and laboratory testing procedure

Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (Methods section, line 16).

Comment 13: Replace laboratory testing procedure of HBsAg with Detection of HBsAg
Response: Thank you very much for your critical look. We have replaced.

Comment 14: Write company, City and country of the test kits
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (methods section, line 37).

Comment 15: do not bold Eugene rapid test
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (methods section, line 39).

Comment 16: do not bold HBV infection status
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (methods section, line 43).

Question 1 for reviewer’s 2: What ethical actions taken on pregnant women positive for HBsAg?
Response: Thank you so much for your critical look. The clinical specimen collected during the study period used only for stated objectives.(methods section, under ethical issue, line 60)

Comment 17: Break into two subtitle as Socio-demographic characteristics and Sero-prevalence of HBV infection
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (result section, line 6).

Comment18: Include the gravida status? i.e first time prosecution, 2nd time etc (result section, line 20).
Response: Thank you for your remarks. We have reviewed different literature and this variable is not yet significant. Therefore, we have not included gravida status.

Comment19: Re-write clearly
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (result section, line 36).

Comment 20: I think this table can be two
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (result section, line 38).

Comment21: Delet
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (discussion section, line 58).

Comment22: Better to include at this reference a study conducted in Bahir Dar by Zenebe et al. BMC Infectious Diseases 2014, 14:118
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (discussion section, line 58).

Comment22: Write and in place of &
Response: Thank you for your remarks. Amended accordingly (discussion section, line 60).

Comment 23: Include major limitations in this study

Response 24: thank you for your remarks. Therefore, the major limitation of the study was the new infection of HBV in blood and its active period status not included.(discussion section)