Reviewer's report

Title: Higher prevalence and characterization of hepatitis C virus/hepatitis B virus infection in an epidemic area of needle sharing in Northern China

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Reviewer: Rafael T Mikolajczyk

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General comments
The authors study HBV, HCV and coinfections in a sample from a region where needle sharing was a common behavior. The text suffers from linguistic problems so it is not always clear if the content is correct or not. A multivariable regression would be appropriate for the analysis of risk factors but authors present only chi-squared tests.

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Description of the study population is not clear. The description should include information how the participants were sampled.
2. Multivariable analyses should be added.
3. Some elements are misplaced – for example limitations should not be placed in conclusions. Similarly, results regarding infections should not be presented in section called study population.
4. The results are presented in a rather redundant way with description of age specific prevalence – although it can be seen in the figure.
5. The discussion section reiterates findings, but there is not much true discussion of the findings- this section has to be expanded.
6. Strengths and limitations of the study are not discussed.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Sample size is misspelled in the methods section as 582.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I received research funds from Sanofi Pasteur, MSD.