Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prenatal Hepatitis B screening and associated factors in a high prevalence district of Lira, Northern Uganda: a community based cross sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviewers’ comments

Dear Editor,

We thank the reviewers for their comments and here under we give a detailed report of our responses.

Comment 1: Overlap

We note that there is some textual overlap between this submission and other previous publications, in particular:

Response

Lines 61-63

This was paraphrased from “In settings where hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) seroprevalence in the general population is ≥2%, it is recommended that HBsAg serological testing be routinely offered to all pregnant women in antenatal clinics, with linkage to prevention, care and treatment services as a standard way of controlling and reducing neonatal HBV transmission” to “Routine Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) serological testing of all pregnant women in antenatal clinics and linkage to prevention, care and treatment services is the recommended standard way of controlling and reducing neonatal HBV transmission in settings where HBsAg seroprevalence in the general population exceeds 2%.” Lines 60-63
Lines 270-273

This was paraphrased from “In addition, the source of data for our study was based on the self-report of respondents, and there was no validation of obtained information with an objective source such as health facility cards. Social desirability bias could have been an issue in cases where women felt they needed to respond in a way expected of them” to “Social desirability bias could have been introduced since we obtained data from the respondents self reports which information we did not validate with an objective source such as health facility cards”. Lines 269-271

Lines 275-279

This was paraphrased from “There is a possibility that the relationships found in this study are due to the influence of unmeasured individual and community-level variables that are associated with both the dependent and independent variables in the estimated models. It is also possible that the observed relationships reflect reverse causation or are due to measurement error” to “There is a possibility that the relationships found in this study are due to the influence of other variables that were not studied, reverse causation and or measurement error”. Lines 272-274

Comment 2: Citing tables 1 and 2

Please cite Tables 1 and 2 in the main body of your manuscript.

Response

This has been done

Comment 3: Clean manuscript

At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours

Response

This has been done