Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 21 May 2019

Reviewer: Salma Afifi

Reviewer's report:

Major concerns:

- Please elaborate on the methodology and outcome of the mass screening program because this is the system that the study aims at its evaluation

- Need to discuss the healthcare utilization ratio and pattern in Uganda population and specifically the ante-natal care

- It is not clear how were the study subjects selected in the original randomized trial, how were houses selected, what was the design of sampling in the original study, in addition consecutive sampling is a non-probability type that cannot be generalized

- Need to develop a table to show the demographic characteristics and factors for performing the screening.

- More analysis about study participants knowledge and perception for HBV risk and the cause of non-compliance to HBV testing present this in a table

- It is not clear why respondents did not get HBV testing? Are they attending HCFs for ante-natal care? If so are they refusing the HBsAg specifically or other screening tests?....etc
Minor concerns:

- Title should reflect the study objective i.e. evaluation of the screening program for HBsAg in pregnant women in their third trimester and factors affecting their utilization of the program service.
- Reference No. 9 is irrelevant to the screening of pregnant women for HBsAg.
- Not sure that it is recommended for a pregnant women should be tested for HBsAg in every prenatal visit whether they have been previously screened, Please include the reference.
- Please state clearly the study aims and objectives
- Please use either means or medians to prevent redundancy
- Pre-natal HBV screening: Denominator should be the same (pregnant women interviewed) for all proportions calculation to prevent confusion.

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

No

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

Unable to assess

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

Acceptable

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