

Answering Reviewers
Manuscript – 34031

Reviewer 1 - Comments to Authors

The manuscript entitled “Perinatal transmission in Infants of mothers with chronic Hepatitis B in California” by Burgis et al is well written and well presented. In the discussion section please add couple of articles from US and other parts of world on HBV perinatal transmission and compare with your study. Please check if there is any different in HBV perinatal transmission in US and developing countries where proper record of HBV vaccination is not maintained or facilities are not available, resulting in high HBV perinatal transmission. Just add 4-5 references. The article accepted for publication after minor revision.

Answer

While post-exposure prophylaxis rates are excellent for at-risk infants, PVST testing in the US has been shown in several studies to be below goal rates despite comprehensive surveillance and case management programs, therefore potentially missing infected cases.^[15-16] To compare our study’s evaluation of perinatal transmission rates to other US and international studies, we looked at several studies. Zou et al demonstrated a higher perinatal transmission rate of 3.1% but found a parallel HBV DNA level threshold for risk of perinatal transmission in a similar sized sample of infected infants in Beijing, China.^[6] Wen et al also found a similar HBV DNA level portending risk for perinatal transmission but with a much smaller sample of infected infants, all of whom received late HBV birth dose at 3 days of life or later.^[7] Kubo et al conducted an observational study in Northern California with a similar perinatal transmission rate but only evaluated three infected infants with maternal HBV DNA results.^[21] Singh et al in a case control study showed similar threshold HBV DNA level for perinatal transmission. Overall, our study uniquely evaluates perinatal transmission in California, with the largest single state sample size with transmission risk clearly evident at a maternal HBV DNA level of $\geq 2 \times 10^7$ IU/mL.

Reviewer 2- Comments to Authors

The manuscript needs minor revision: tehnoedactation and references (electronic references doi)

The manuscript text and references were edited as requested.