



June, 27th 2021

Richard NJOUOM, PhD
Laboratoire de Virologie
Centre Pasteur du Cameroun
e mail : njouom@pasteur-yaounde.org
Tel: + (237) 99 65 47 67

Submission Manuscript NO.: 64806

Article title: Global prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus serological markers among Healthcare Workers: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

The Editor-in-Chief
One Health

Dear Editor,

We are delighted that the *World Journal of Hepatology* will consider publication of our review, pending satisfactory revisions as suggested by the Reviewers.

We have given careful consideration to the Reviewer's comments and have done our best to address them all.

In green text in the response to the Reviewers comment document is a point-by-point explanation of how we have addressed the concerns and revised our manuscript. We have enclosed

1. Point-by-point response letter
2. Track-changes version of our revised manuscript
3. A clean version of our revised manuscript

We thank the Reviewers for their thoughtful comments. With these revisions, we feel the paper has been substantially improved. We hope it will receive favorable consideration for publication in the *WJH*.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional questions or comments.

Kind regards,

Richard NJOUOM

On behalf of the co-authors

Review Comments to the Author

Reviewer #1:

Specific Comments to Authors: I read with interest the manuscript submitted to me for revision. The meta-analysis in my opinion is of great interest to readers and covers a large literature.

Authors: We appreciated the reviewer's comments, thank you.

I only have two suggestions: 1. a subsection, if data are available, on the differences in protection where vaccination is mandatory (for newborns or HCWs) would be interesting;

Authors: This is a very good suggestion, unfortunately the data reported was collected in 71 different countries around the world and we do not have access to any database that could for all these countries reported the vaccine policies implemented. In addition, the participants of the included studies were recruited between 1964 and 2019, which implies a coverage of the pre- and post-vaccine introduction period, which were produced in 1982. It should also be noted that after the production of the first vaccines, the introduction of vaccine policies was done gradually in the different countries and it was therefore difficult for us to categorize the studies included in the review as suggested, thank you.

2. reference 215 lacks bibliometric data (volume, pages)

Authors: The reference has been modified accordingly, thank you.

Authors: The manuscript has been proofread and improved by a native English speaker, thank you.

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.

Authors: Corrected, thank you.

Now we list the abbreviations rules as follows.

(1) Title: Please spell out any abbreviation in the title. Abbreviations are not permitted.

Authors: Done, thank you.

(2) Running title: Please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words. Abbreviations are permitted.

Authors: Done, thank you.

- (3) Abstract: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract. Examples:
Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori).

Authors: Corrected, thank you.

- (4) Key words: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key words.

Authors: Done, thank you.

- (5) Core tip: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core tip. Examples:
Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

Authors: This was corrected, thank you.

- (6) Main Text: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text.
Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori).

Authors: This was corrected, thank you.

- (7) Article Highlights: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights. Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

Authors: Corrected, thank you.

- (8) Figures: Please verify the abbreviations used in figures and define them (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend or table; for example, BMI: Body mass index; CT: Computed tomography.

Authors: Done, thank you.

- (9) Tables: Please verify the abbreviations used in tables and define them (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend or table; for example, BMI: Body mass index; CT: Computed tomography.

Authors: Done, thank you.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Science editor:

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a Meta-Analysis of hepatitis B virus in healthcare workers. The topic is within the scope of the WJH. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This meta-analysis is of great interest to readers and covers a large literature.

Authors: We appreciated the Science editor comments, thank you.

5 Issues raised: (1) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references.

Authors: Corrected, thank you.

Please revise throughout; (2) The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text;

Authors: This section was added at the end of the main text, thank you.

And (3) the authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

Authors: Done, thank you.

6 Re-Review: Required.

Authors: We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments in order to improve the quality of the article for publication, thank you.

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Hepatology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

Authors: We appreciated the Science editor comments, thank you. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments in order to improve the quality of the article for publication, thank you.