

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 30, 2015

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 18663-original.doc).

**Title:** Effectiveness of Hepatitis B Virus Vaccination Program in Egypt: Multicenter National Project

**Authors:** Iman I Salama, Samia M Sami, Zeinab N Said, Manal H El-Sayed, Lobna A El Etreby, Thanaa M Rabah, Dalia M Elmosalami, Amany T Abdel Hamid , Somaia I Salama, Aida M Abdel Mohsen, Hanaa M Emam, Safaa M Elserougy, Amal I Hassanain, Naglaa F Abd Alhalim, Fatma A Shaaban, Samia A Hemeda, Nihad A Ibrahim, Ammal M Metwally

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 18663

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated according to the journal requirements; changes were highlighted in yellow.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the editor and the reviewers

### Comments of the editor:

**Editor:** Please highlight the changes made to the manuscript according to the peer-reviewers' comments.

**Authors:** changes according to peer-reviewers' comments were highlighted in yellow.

**Editor:** Please provide the postcode. Thank you.

**Authors:** It was done. Thanks

**Editor:** An informative, structured abstract of no less than 246 words should accompany each manuscript. The Abstract will be structured into the following sections and adhering to the word count thresholds indicated in parentheses:

**AIM** (no more than 20 words): The purpose of the study should be stated clearly and with no or minimal background information, following the format of: “To investigate/study/determine...”

**METHODS** (no less than 80 words): You should present the materials and methods used for all of the data presented in the proceeding Results section of the abstract.

**RESULTS** (no less than 120 words): You should present P values where appropriate. You must provide relevant data to illustrate how the statistical values were obtained, e.g.  $6.92 \pm 3.86$  vs  $3.61 \pm 1.67$ ,  $P < 0.001$ .

**CONCLUSION** (no more than 26 words): You should present your findings and implications that are within the scope of the data you have presented in the preceding Results section. The conclusion should be written in the present tense.

**Authors:** It was done. Thanks.

#### **Editor: CORE TIP**

Please write a summary of no more than 100 words to present the core content of your manuscript, highlighting the most innovative and important findings and/or arguments. The purpose of the Core Tip is to attract readers’ interest for reading the full version of your article and increasing the impact of your article in your field of study.

**Authors:** It was done. Thanks

#### **Editor: COMMENTS**

Please write the COMMENTS section at here. See the requirements as follows:

##### **COMMENTS**

##### ***Background***

To concisely and accurately summarize the related background of the article and to enable the readers to gain some basic knowledge relevant to the article, thus helping them better understand the significance of the article.

##### ***Research frontiers***

To briefly introduce the hotspots or important areas in the research field related to the article.

##### ***Innovations and breakthroughs***

To summarize and emphasize the differences, particularly the advances, achievements, innovations and breakthroughs, from the other related or similar articles so as to allow the readers to catch up the major points of the article.

##### ***Applications***

To summarize the actual application values, the implications for further application and modification, or the perspectives of future application of the article.

##### ***Terminology***

To concisely and accurately describe, define or explain the specific, unique terms that are not familiar to majority of the readers, but are essential for the readers to understand the article.

##### ***Peer review***

To provide the comments from peer reviewers that most represents the characteristics, values and significance of the article, and allows the readers to have an objective point of view toward the article.

**Authors:** It was done. Thanks

**Reviewer 1:** Good work

**Authors:** Thanks Sir.

**Reviewer 2:**

The manuscript is well written and is based in a large and well selected cohort that represents the Egypt young population. The conclusions and statements are well made in face of the obtained results. HBV vaccine is worldwide used and other studies have demonstrated its effectiveness in other populations. This study was focused in Egypt population and evaluated the behavior of anti-HBV response build after HBV vaccination. The expected result “The Egyptian compulsory HBV vaccination program has produced adequate protection” was correctly placed and support by the data collect.

**Minor points**

**Reviewer 2:** Is not necessary detailed brand and country of the commercial Kits used in the Abstract. Should be removed from the abstract.

**Authors:** Names of commercial kits brand and country were deleted from the abstract.

**Reviewer 2:** It should be better explained in results or in Figure 1 legend why Figure 1B is the prevalence among aged <1 year.

**Authors:** Figure 1B has been explained in results section highlighted in yellow.

**Reviewer 2:** Numbers and text indications in Figure 1 are too small. Hard to see. Just increase size of the text.

**Authors:** Text size of Fig.1 has been increased.

**Reviewer 2:** In Figure 2, should be indicate what are the axis Y and X.

**Authors:** labeling of the X and Y axes of Fig.2 was done.

**Reviewer2:** A review in the text should be made to standardize spacing between words, and dots and symbols along the manuscript. Also the tables should be standardized.

**Authors:** Spacing between symbols and words were standardized along the manuscript. Missing prepositions were added. Numbers in tables were corrected and clarified.

**Reviewer 3:**

The study by Salama et al. describes the presence of HBV antibodies in 3600 children aged 9 months-16 years who were fully vaccinated with HBV vaccine. The children were for 6 governorates

in Egypt and represent both urban and rural areas. All children had received the triple vaccination regime with vaccinations at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. Samples positive for HBsAg/anti-HBV core antibodies were also analyzed for the presence of HBV DNA by qPCR. Overall sero-protection was 57.2%, but it decreased to ~30% in children older than 15 years. Non sero-protection was more common in older age and female gender. Fourteen children had HBV breakthrough infection (as determined by the presence of HBV DNA, 13 of them were aged >7).

#### **Minor comments**

**Reviewer 3:** Abstract, first line: ...has been adopted in Egypt in 1992.

**Authors:** Correction is done. Thanks Sir.

**Reviewer 3:** Figure 2: What is the X-axis, what is the Y-axis?

**Authors:** labeling of the X and Y axes of Fig.2 was done.

**Reviewer 3:** Table 1: the total number of children in the socio-economic status adds up to 3492, not 3586. Why? -Table 1, row Age in years, >15: 571 =69.5, not 69.6

**Authors:** Thanks Sir. Corrections are done.

**Reviewer 3:** Table 3: column “Non-seroprotection rate”. What are the numbers in parenthesis?

**Authors:** It is the percent of children having anti-HBs non seroprotection level at each age group or gender

**Reviewer 3:** Results presented in Table 4 suggest that monitoring the presence of HBV DNA (by using qPCR) is a better diagnostic parameter than anti-HBc or anti-HBsAg antibodies for detecting viral infection. This should be mentioned in the discussion.

**Authors:** Comment on Table 4 was mentioned in discussion.

**Reviewer 3:** Discussion, line 3: among Egyptian children (n=3600)

**Authors:** Thanks Sir. Correction is done.

**Reviewer 4:** The paper is ready to be published

**Authors:** Thanks Sir.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Hepatology.

Sincerely yours,  
First author  
Iman I Salama

Corresponding author  
Zeinab Nabil Ahmed Said  
WJG Editorial Board Member  
ID number: 00053556