



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_21523
Title of the Manuscript:	High prevalence of isolated hepatitis B core antibody among adults in Oyo State, Nigeria: the need for review of diagnostic and vaccination guidelines
Type of Article	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The revised paper is not significantly improved. Some significant limitations still exist. - Material and methods: - The authors did not address how the study measured 'apparently healthy' adequately. It seems the health status is a self-reported measure. If so, the authors need to state so and explain how this self-reported measurement were obtained. - It seems strange that the study would exclude people who know their HBV status from the study when the aim of the study is to evaluate the prevalence of HBV. Such exclusion would likely to result biased estimation - Chi square test is not enough. Multivariate logistic regression should be done to determine if these risk factors were independently associated with HBV infection - Results: The numbers in table 3 still does not match those in table 2. According to table 2, there are 44 HBsAg + and 28 HBsAb +. The numbers in table 3 were 40 and 7 respectively - Discussion: The authors claim that the results are reliable and valid and self reported questionnaire were pre-tested. However a lot of items from the questionnaire are either sensitive or subjected to recall bias. The authors need to re-evaluate how reliable and valid of their findings.	- Materials and methods: - The apparent health status of participants was evaluated from normal vital signs measurement complemented with the participants response of absence of a clinical complaint (this has been included, line 65-66). However those with abnormal vital signs and medical complaints consulted with the medical personnel on site. The self-reported state of health and the vital signs measurement were recorded in the questionnaire for data collection. - This was done because a large number of individuals with known hepatitis B status at the recruitment educational program were found to be on treatment (hepatitis B positive) or have commenced or completed their immunization schedule. The study was aimed at investigating parameters that could be useful for developing newer strategies for HBV prevention and control in the future. So individuals with unknown status who might have played indirect role in disease transmission were recruited. - The multivariate logistic analyses are included as Tables 4 & 5. Also the previously significant factors (based on Chi-square) found to be insignificant in the new multivariate analyses have been removed and the write up adjusted accordingly (abstract, lines 144-146, 198-199, 201-203, 237, 258-260, 265-266). Also references 26 & 27 associated with the previously significant factors have been removed. - Results: Table 3 has been re-presented - Discussion- A limitation which may involve recall and social desirability bias has been included because of the self-reporting nature of risk factors (line 318-320).