

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Research and Reports in Hematology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJR2H_126902
Title of the Manuscript:	Evaluation of Serological Markers and Real –Time PCR of HBV-DNA among Blood Donors with HBsAg Negative in Ilorin, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Research Article

[Review Form 3](#)

PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript makes a meaningful contribution to transfusion medicine and public health, particularly in regions with a high prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). By examining occult HBV infections among HBsAg-negative blood donors in Ilorin, Nigeria, it underscores the limitations of relying solely on HBsAg testing. It demonstrates the necessity for more comprehensive screening protocols. The study's use of multiple serological markers, including anti-HBc and real-time PCR for HBV DNA, effectively highlights potential gaps in traditional screening, which is critical for improving blood safety. This research adds to existing literature by advocating for the integration of nucleic acid testing and other sensitive methods to reduce the risk of HBV transmission. However, a more detailed discussion on testing techniques and their reproducibility could further strengthen its scientific rigor and practical applicability in diverse settings.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The current title, "<i>Evaluation of Serological Markers and Real-Time PCR of HBV-DNA among Blood Donors with HBsAg Negative in Ilorin, Nigeria,</i>" is informative but could be refined for clarity and impact. A more concise and engaging title could be:</p> <p>"Assessing Occult HBV Infection Risk: Serological Markers and HBV-DNA PCR in HBsAg-Negative Blood Donors in Ilorin, Nigeria"</p> <p>This alternative title emphasizes the study's focus on occult HBV infection risk and highlights the specific population and methods used, which may increase reader interest and clarity.</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is largely comprehensive but could benefit from minor adjustments for clarity and impact. First, it would be helpful to briefly explain the concept of occult HBV infection to provide context for the study's focus on HBsAg-negative blood donors, emphasizing the potential risks that traditional screening methods may overlook. The methods section could clarify the specific serological markers tested (such as anti-HBs and anti-HBc) alongside real-time PCR, offering a clear picture of the approach taken to detect occult HBV infections. Additionally, the results section would be stronger with a summary of the prevalence rates of different HBV markers and an outline of demographic characteristics linked to HBV exposure, enhancing readers' understanding of key findings. Lastly, in conclusion, specifying nucleic acid testing (NAT) as a recommended addition to improving blood donor screening protocols would strengthen the study's implications for transfusion safety. These additions would make the abstract more informative and targeted to readers interested in HBV screening improvements.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The manuscript's structure is appropriate and generally follows scientific conventions, with clear sections for the introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. However, a few improvements could enhance readability. In the Introduction, focusing more directly on the specific challenges of detecting occult HBV infections and the limitations of HBsAg screening would better highlight the study's purpose.</p> <p>In the Methods section, organizing details into distinct subsections—such as sample selection, ethical considerations, and statistical analysis—would improve clarity. The Results would benefit from subsections that separate findings on seroprevalence, demographics, and serological markers, along with visual elements like tables or charts for key data. In the Discussion, using subheadings like "Comparison with Other Studies" and "Implications for Blood Safety" could improve flow and accessibility. The Conclusion effectively summarizes findings but could briefly mention recommendations for future research or clinical applications. Overall, adding structure and visual aids would make the manuscript more reader-friendly.</p>	

Review Form 3

<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness and technical soundness through its comprehensive methodology, which includes the use of both serological and molecular techniques to detect occult HBV infections among blood donors. By incorporating real-time PCR for HBV DNA alongside traditional serological markers (e.g., anti-HBc, anti-HBs), the study minimizes the risk of undetected infections, which enhances its reliability. Additionally, the statistical analysis, including the use of chi-square tests and p-values to examine associations between demographic factors and HBV markers, is appropriate and strengthens the validity of the findings. The clear sampling criteria and ethical considerations further contribute to the study's scientific rigor, making its conclusions credible and valuable for transfusion safety improvements.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =</p>	<p>The manuscript includes a relevant mix of recent and foundational references, supporting both historical and current perspectives on HBV detection. However, adding a few recent studies on the use of nucleic acid testing (NAT) in blood screening and the prevalence of occult HBV among donors would strengthen the paper. These additions would enhance its alignment with the latest advancements in transfusion safety. Overall, the references are sufficient but could benefit from a few updates to reflect emerging technologies. Kindly consider the recent references and cite them accordingly in the manuscript.</p> <p>1. Advanced Theranostic Strategies for Viral Hepatitis Using Carbon Nanostructures https://doi.org/10.3390/mi14061185</p>	
<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The English language quality of the manuscript is adequate but requires some refinement to meet scholarly standards. While the text effectively communicates key ideas and demonstrates appropriate use of technical terminology, minor grammatical issues, awkward phrasing, and occasional redundancies affect readability. Improving conciseness, enhancing transitions between ideas, and adopting a more polished academic tone would strengthen clarity and professionalism. A round of editing focused on grammar, syntax, and flow would elevate the manuscript to the quality expected in scholarly publications.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>		

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

Reviewer Details:

<p>Name:</p>	<p>Nelson Pynadathu Rumjit</p>
<p>Department, University & Country</p>	<p>St. Mary's College, India</p>