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| Journal Name: | [**International Research Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**](https://journalirjgh.com/index.php/IRJGH) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_IRJGH\_134285** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus Infection and Associated Risk Factors among Patients Attending Selected Tertiary Health Facilities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| **PART 1: Comments** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial intelligence (AI)-generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript.). It is mandatory that authors write his/her feedback here.* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | It was noted in the study that highlighted Nasarawa State in Nigeria, a region with high endemicity for HBV infection, that it was useful in understanding the prevalence and risk factors in the area. The results of the study also noted major risks related to one's occupation alongside environmental factors like unsafe healthcare practices and living in the countryside, which pose important risks for targeted public health measures. The addition of the comparison between the RDT and ELISA procedures enhances the study method of this work, making it applicable in low-resource settings. This study forms part of the available data on the epidemiology of HBV and calls for increased attention to and improved health  facilities for disadvantaged populations. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not, please suggest an alternative title.)** | The title is suitable as it clearly explains the study's focus, methodology, and geographical scope. However, for greater detail, it could be refined to *Prevalence and Risk Factors of Hepatitis B Virus Infection among Patients in Tertiary Health Facilities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria: A Cross-Sectional*  *Study.* |  |
| **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.** | The abstract is comprehensive but could benefit from   * Briefly mentioning the sample size (200 participants) and key demographic findings (e.g., higher rural prevalence). * Explicitly stating the statistical significance of risk factors like blood transfusion and unsterilized instruments. |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | The manuscript is scientifically sound, with acceptable methodology, statistical analysis, and ethical issues. The discussion contextualizes findings within current literature, albeit small explanations on the  ELISA/RDT disagreement (e.g., plausible reasons for varying sensitivity) would strengthen it. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | References are sufficient and recent (2021–2025), covering global and regional studies. Additional references could include   * A meta-analysis on HBV diagnostic accuracy in low-resource settings (e.g., Nagpal et al., 2021). * Recent WHO guidelines on HBV elimination strategies (2024). |  |

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| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | The language is suitable for scholarly communication, with minor grammatical errors (e.g., "unto farming" should be "engaged in farming") |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | This paper is an important contribution to HBV research in Nigeria. Strengthening the conversation with comparative regional statistics and policy recommendations (e.g., immunization programs for rural farmers) will further boost its significance. The disclaimer on AI use and ethical approval lends  legitimacy. |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **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)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |

**Reviewer Details:**

**Habtamu Biazin Kebede, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia**