

TITLE PAGE

Title: Evaluation of the diagnostic accuracy of laboratory-based screening for hepatitis C in dried blood spot samples: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Running head: HCV screening in DBS samples

Authors: Sonia VÁZQUEZ-MORÓN ^{1(¥)}; Beatriz ARDIZONE JIMÉNEZ ^{1(¥)}; María A. JIMENEZ-SOUSA ¹; José M BELLON ^{2,3}; Pablo RYAN ⁴; Salvador RESINO ^{1(*)}

(¥), Both authors contributed equally to this study; (*), Corresponding author

Current affiliations: (1) Unidad de Infección Viral e Inmunidad. Centro Nacional de Microbiología - Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda, Spain; (2) Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain; (3) Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Gregorio Marañón (IISGM), Madrid, Spain; (4) Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor (HUIL). Vallecas, Madrid, Spain.

Corresponding authors: Salvador Resino, Centro Nacional de Microbiología, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (Campus Majadahonda); Carretera Majadahonda- Pozuelo, Km 2.2; 28220 Majadahonda (Madrid), Spain. Tel: +34 918 223 266; Fax: +34 915 097 946; e-mail: sresino@isciii.es

Declarations of interest: none.

Author contributions:

Sonia Vázquez-Morón: investigation, methodology, writing – original draft

Beatriz Ardizone: investigation, methodology, writing – original draft

María A Jiménez-Sousa: investigation, methodology, writing – review and editing

José M Bellón: methodology: statistical analysis

Pablo Ryan: writing – review and editing

Salvador Resino: conceptualization, formal analysis, writing – original draft, supervision

Character count of Title: 150

Count of References: 56

Character count of Running Head: 28

Count of Tables: 2

Word count of Abstract: 257

Count of Figures: 4

Word count of Keywords: 5

Count of Suppl. Data: 12

Words count for main body: 4476

Supplemental File 3. Deek's funnel plot asymmetry test for detection of publication bias in anti-HCV antibody detection studies. Deek's funnel plot asymmetry test suggested potential publication bias (P=0.001).

yb	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Bias	-38.90343	10.27252	-3.79	0.001	-59.94573	-17.86112
Intercept	11.41672	.6985897	16.34	0.000	9.985722	12.84771

