

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58277

**Title: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE PREVALENCE OF CONGENITAL HYPOTHYROIDISM IN NEWBORNS AT A RURAL TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL.**

**Recommendation:**

Accept as it is ..

Accept after minor revision

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity		√		
Significance		√		

Reviewer ID: JP085

**Reviewer's Comment for Publication.**

This prospective observational study evaluated the prevalence of congenital hypothyroidism (CH) through newborn screening in a rural tertiary care hospital. The study found a prevalence of 1.09 per 1000 live births (approximately 1 in 919 births), demonstrating that newborn TSH screening is feasible and effective for early detection of CH. The authors conclude that universal newborn screening and early treatment can prevent irreversible intellectual disability and improve long-term outcomes.

**Strength:**

1. Addresses an important neonatal public health issue.
2. Prospective study design with practical clinical relevance.
3. Highlights the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.
4. Findings support implementation of universal newborn screening.
5. Limitations are clearly acknowledged.
6. Conclusions are supported by the study findings.

**Weakness:**

1. Single-center study limits generalizability.
2. Only one confirmed CH case reduces statistical power.
3. TSH-only screening may miss central hypothyroidism.
4. No long-term follow-up of diagnosed infants.
5. Maternal and neonatal iodine status was not assessed.
6. Minor language and formatting corrections are needed.

**Overall assessment:**

The manuscript addresses a clinically important topic and provides useful evidence supporting newborn screening for congenital hypothyroidism in rural settings. The methodology is appropriate, and the

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conclusions are relevant for neonatal healthcare. Minor improvements in language, discussion, and multicenter validation would further strengthen the manuscript.

**Recommendation:** Manuscript accepted for publication after minor revision.