Author's response to reviews

Title: Anxiety, knowledge and attitudes toward influenza A/H1N1 vaccination in healthcare workers in Gaziantep: a city in south-eastern Turkey

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Anxiety, knowledge and attitudes toward influenza A/H1N1 vaccination in healthcare workers in Turkey

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Dear Editor;

The earliest confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1 in 2009 was reported in Mexico in March, and the World Health Organization declared the disease to be a pandemic-Phase 6 on 11 June. Vaccination is one of the potentially effective measures that can reduce mortality and morbidity from pandemic influenza. On 13 July 2009, the WHO also recommended that all countries should immunize their healthcare workers as a first priority to protect the essential health infrastructure. The potential benefits of influenza vaccination for healthcare workers are three fold — personal protection, protection of patients, and reduction of absenteeism. If healthcare workers say that they will not get vaccinated against influenza, other people can imitate them and may say “Then we will not get vaccinated.” For this reason, particularly in outbreak situations, the attitude of healthcare workers towards the vaccine is important. That healthcare workers are not vaccinated can pose an important obstacle to the success of vaccine campaigns. For this reason, in our study we aimed to research what were the reasons for healthcare workers not to be vaccinated and the relation between not being vaccinated and anxiety level. We aimed for our research to be a guide in increasing vaccination rates in vaccination campaigns. But no study about H1N1
vaccination and its relation with anxiety of healthcare workers and possible related factors has yet been published.

In Turkey there has been no study addressing the knowledge and attitudes towards influenza A/H1N1 vaccination. Thus, we carried out this study to analyze the factors associated with knowledge and attitudes towards influenza A (H1N1) and anxiety levels among healthcare workers in two hospitals from a large south-eastern province of Turkey: Gaziantep.

Please take into consideration the manuscript for publication in your Journal.

Best Regards

Dr. Derya Tanriverdi