Author’s response to reviews

Title: Did the pandemic have an impact on influenza vaccination attitude? A survey among health care workers

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We have done the required two textual corrections requested by the reviewer (we replaced both paragraphs with the paragraphs he proposed) and we had our manuscript corrected by a native speaker. Our point-by-point responses are included below.

Yours sincerely,
Raika Durusoy

A. Associate Editor’s comments:

The reviewer still has some small textual suggestions. Overall, the English language in the manuscript needs to be improved. There misused words and hard to understand sentences. I think it has to be done by a native English speaker.

Response: The English language of the manuscript was proofread and corrected by a native speaker, Jennifer Öztürkeri, whom we also acknowledged in the manuscript.

B. Reviewer’s report:

The conclusion of the abstract lacks evidence:
"There was considerable hesitation among health professionals regarding pandemic influenza vaccination. Messages from the media seem to have had a negative impact on the vaccination campaign. Although vaccination rate of HCWs was considerably low as 30.4%, it was higher than their seasonal influenza vaccination rates in the previous year (19.0%)."
I suggest something like the following:
"Vaccination rates increased substantially in comparison to the previous influenza season. However, vaccination rates could have been even higher since hesitation to be vaccinated increased dramatically within one week (only 60% of those willing and the minority of those undecided were finally vaccinated). We speculate that this may be connected with negative media at the time."

Discussion, first paragraph:
"HCWs had considerable hesitation in pandemic H1N1 vaccination and their actual immunization rate was low. The percentage of undecided HCWs was quite high (38%) one week prior to vaccination. Furthermore, the ‘decided’ ones had also changed their mind one week later. Only 60% of those willing and surprisingly, 12% of those unwilling were vaccinated."
I suggest something like the following:
"HCW had considerable hesitation to be vaccinated with the pandemic H1N1 vaccine despite a higher degree of preparedness (or at least undecidedness) to be vaccinated shortly before the vaccination programme. Only 60% of those willing and a minority of those undecided were finally vaccinated. Factors that have likely to do with the specific H1N1 vaccine, such as possible side effects and lack of comprehensive field evaluation were the most frequent reasons given for not being vaccinated."

No further changes are required by me.

Response: Both paragraphs were changed according to the reviewer’s suggestion.