Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Udo Buchholz

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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.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests