Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge and attitudes of primary health care physicians and nurses with regard to population screening for colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2009

Reviewer: Grazia Grazzini

Reviewer's report:

The study entitled “Knowledge and attitudes of primary health care physicians and nurses with regard to population screening for colorectal cancer ” by Ramos M et al reports the results of a survey carried out in two regions of Spain aimed to investigate attitudes of health operators towards colorectal cancer screening.

The study was relatively well conducted but it has a quite poor significance in terms of increasing knowledge about this topic. Nevertheless it may be of some relevance at a local level for planning future actions of screening implementation.

Main remarks:

1. In the questions regarding FOBT, you did not mention which type of FOBT test (i.e guaiac or immunochemical test) was the object of the survey. This fact should be specified in the text of the paper. In addition, it could be important for the study results because we know that guaiac test actually has a poor sensitivity for cancer and adenomas and this awareness may have had an influence on the answers given by health operators, mainly on physicians’ ones.

In addition, it is well known that guaiac tests are less comfortable in the sampling procedure in comparison with immunochemical ones. Questions about the difficulties of the sampling procedure would have been more informative if the type of test was specified (basing on my information, in some areas of Spain an immunochemical test is currently used and few studies are available to date about the knowledge and attitudes of professionals and people towards immunochemical tests for colorectal cancer screening).

2. What role should physicians and nurses play in colorectal cancer screening in Spain? Authors should give more details about the planned organization of CRC screening or indicate papers (in English language) that described the Spanish screening protocol

Minor remarks:

1. Citation number 8 and 9 should be updated

2. Please eliminate Spanish from the citations number 9 and number 10.

3. Please insert this citation about screening implementation in Europe von Karsa L, Anttila A, Ronco G, Ponti A, Malila N, Arbyn M, Segnan N,

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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