Reviewer's report

Title: A cross-sectional survey to evaluate knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) regarding seasonal influenza vaccination among international travellers

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Reviewer: Robert M West

Reviewer's report:

1. This proposed article reports descriptively on 3 surveys with respect to knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards seasonal influenza vaccination: their own cross-sectional survey and two previous studies. The authors state that this comparison enables changes over time to be determined.

2. Reporting of methods is vague, with only superficial mention of any statistical analysis. Specifically there appears to be no method stated which addresses testing for variation over time.

3. Data is from three very diverse surveys. The authors establish that these comprise very different populations. There are major issues with recruitment to all three studies that they authors partially reveal although without clearly stating the limitations and consequences of recruitment biases. Their own survey of 600 individuals waiting at a travel clinic is certainly a 'convenience sample' from travellers seeking health advice and will no doubt contrast from travellers that do not attend such a clinic.

4. Reporting is not structured to any standard familiar to this reviewer and appears confused with aspect of the previous studies. The STROBE statement would provide very suitable standards and this is recommended to the authors.

5. The authors approach their subject with some enthusiasm to yield their findings without regard for a balanced viewpoint.

6. There are a great number of limitations to be discussed for any convenience sample but these receive little attention.

7. Work by others is acknowledged.

8. The title reflects the authors focus although the abstract overstates what might be concluded from a convenience survey of 600.

9. There is also one specific concern: from 624 contacts only 566 complete responses were analysed. No attempt has been made to consider what bias may have arisen from the analysis of complete records only. This bias is likely however to be far smaller than the bias due to the convenience sample.

10. More generally, from a statistical perspective, the reporting is weak. The source of the data, a convenience sample, and the data against which this current survey is compared increase the importance of thorough and robust statistical investigation.

11. In conclusion, in this reviewers opinion, although attitudes to influenza
vaccination for travellers is of very considerable public health interest, there should be a major compulsory revisions to the reporting before this proposed article can be considered for BMC Public Health.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.