Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Knowledge and attitudes of university students toward pandemic influenza: a cross sectional study from Turkey

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Editor in Chief

BMC Public Health

Dear Editor in chief,

Re: Knowledge and attitudes of university students toward pandemic influenza: a cross-sectional study from Turkey

Authors: Hulya Akan, Yesim Gurol, Guldal Izbirak, Sukran Ozdath, Gulden Yilmaz, Ayca Vitrinel Osman Hayran

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review our manuscript for publication in your journal. The changes in the manuscript have been reviewed and approved by all the authors. There are no conflicts of interest surrounding its publication. It has not been published in any other journals, nor its being considered for publication anywhere else. My response to the reviewer’s comments is attached below.

Sincerely yours

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Reviewer One

Thank you very much for your feedbacks. We reviewed the points you have mentioned about, as:

- After revisions the manuscript corrected in means of writing and grammatical issues by a professional colleague of us.

BACKGROUND

1- The background and context have been added.  
2- Time span of the study has been added  
3- It has been added to the methods also the abstract.  
4- It has been corrected as “self-administered”.  
5- It has been specified as personal risk perception.  
6- Raw data has been provided  
7- Yes we were specific in the questionnaire. The questionnaire can be seen in added files.

INTRODUCTION

8- The first sentence has been removed. Another paragraph about the situation of our country has been added to the introduction. Yes MOH has changed the policy, but our study has been conducted at the peak point of the pandemic and just at the point where vaccination had been just begun, so at that time it was not known how the pandemic would go on.  
9- No, at the time of the study there was no another study except studies of MOH as far as I know.  
10- It has been mentioned in the discussion that the vaccination was free in our country and distribution of the vaccines was under the control of MOH. All these information added in the paragraph related the situation in our country both to information and context.  
11- No courses were targeted. Only 2nd and 3rd yrs students of medical faculty and pharmacy had been taken special courses implemented in their curriculum during their infectious committee during the end of September. It was not open to the first year students.  
12- The data was collected by self-administered questionnaires. Questionnaires were distributed to the study group in their classroom before their lectures has started by SANITAS group members. SANITAS group is a student club at Yeditepe University whose members are volunteer students form Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Health Sciences. If any student in the sample list was not found that he was revisited during the following two days.
13- Answers to the open ended questions were classified, coded and entered to the SPSS database. Then analysed.

14- Yes, University provided information by web site as a routine procedure. Our aim was to investigate the current level of the knowledge and attitudes of the students, so for the study any specific courses or specific material to acknowledge students have not been carried out.

15- Survey questionnaires were pilot tested among 8 students from English preparatory class of Yeditepe university. Details added to the text.

16- Preventive methods had been asked by open ended question.

17- Answers of the multiple choice (close ended) questions were pre-coded. Answers of the open ended questions were classified, coded and re-coded when needed.

18- Ethical principals were considered every stage of the study. The study plan was approved by the Clinical Research Evaluation Committee of the Yeditepe Medical Faculty. All participants had participated to the study on voluntary basis. Their informed consent were taken after explanation of the study objectives.

19- SPSS version number was 11.5

20- Yes, it has been mentioned in the methods part.

21- Raw numbers have been provided in the text.

22- The term “sex” has been corrected as “gender” in the text.

23- Risk perception has been specified in the text as “risk perception of themselves”.

24- Mass media was television and newspaper. You can see the questions in the added files. Yeditepe University have outpatient clinics free of charge for students in the university campus, also Medical Faculty have hospital and outpatient clinics, all are close to the campus and students have opportunity to admit with half of the normal prices. Also, during the pandemic, free consultation provided to the students of our faculty in the hospital.

25- Knowledge levels have been provided in results section detailly.

26- Results have been grouped.

27- Table 2 has been removed and the statistics related to this table has been given in text.

28- No there is no another sociodemographics in our study. There is no racial difference in our country, to ask about ethnicity is difficult in our country and not ethical.

29- Table 4 has been removed and the statistics related to this table has been given in text.
30- Yes, it colaborates with other sutudies . We had been given 4 references about the subjects in the previous manuscript, we have expanded the related sentence, probably we could not be clear enough about this subject due to our English.

31- This part has been expanded.

32- This paragraph has been revised

33- After we have changed the introduction and added some parts reference numbers have been changed. 32 repeated in the first text, it has been corrected.

Reviewer 2

Thank you very much for your feedbacks. We reviewed the points yo have mentioned about as:

1- Since 2nd yrs and 3rd yrs students of medicine and pharmacy had been taken special course about pandemic influenza, to avoid knowledge bias, we included 1st yrs students. The number is representative of our student population as it had been mentioned in the methodology. We added context and background. This is a cross sectional study.

2- The data was collected by self-administered questionnaires. Questionnaires were distributed to the study group in their classroom before their lectures has started by SANITAS group members. SANITAS group is a student club at Yeditepe University whose members are volunteer students form Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Health Sciences. If any student in the sample list was not found that he was revisited during the following two days. This participation rate is not high (82.7%) is not high for such studies.

3- Missing percentage has been given. In the abstract low perception risk wrongly stated as 20.6 % but real number is 26.6% as it is seen in the table. The original questionnaire translated in English and added to files, so you can see the questions. Likert questions had been translated as their original directly in the manuscript before revision, but again it has been translated by a colleague of us.

5- We have provided information about the health promotion campaign carried out MOH, also some statistics from Turkey. We added our suggestions and conclusion has been revised

6- We expanded the limitations parts of the study, as it has been suggested by reviewer

7- Acknowledge has been added in the text

8- Missing values have been shown in the text and tables.
9- After revisions the manuscript corrected in means of writing and grammatical issues by a professional colleague of us.

Minor essential revisions:

- All “flu” and “sex” terms has been changed as “influenza” and “gender”.
- Thank you for your suggestion about recently published work, it had been published after we have sended our manuscript, but we we really interested in this high quality work and we have been included in discussion part.

Referee 3

Thank you very much for your feedbacks. We reviewed the points you have mentioned about as:

5- We have revised the conclusion part.

7- Acknowledgement added to the text

8- The sentences have been corrected as you have suggested.

In the background:

The first two sentences has been removed.

As discretionary revisions,

All sentences have been corrected as you have suggested.

- After revisions the manuscript corrected in means of writing and grammatical issues by a colleague of us.

- Percentages you have mentioned revised and corrected. But tables you have mentioned have been removed as suggested by first referee.

Editorial Requests
1- English writing and grammar of the manuscript has been reviewed by a professional colleague of us.

2- This study was approved by Yeditepe University Clinical Research Evaluation committee and all students participated voluntarily with verbal informed consent. The explanation added to the methods part of the manuscript.

3- The questionnaire has been included as an additional file