Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: arzu uzuner

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To the authors of the Manuscript entitled as “Knowledge and attitudes of university students toward pandemic influenza: a cross-sectional study from Turkey”.

The authors reported a knowledge and attitude research study about a recent subject, swine flu, performed during the pandemic. Even it is a regional study, the data can be considered useful to complete the whole picture of the H1N1 pandemic by reflecting the knowledge and attitudes of a sample of Turkish young people during it.

1. The question posed by the authors is quite well defined.
2. The methods used are quite appropriate and well described.
3. The data are rich in content and reflect the aim of the study.
4. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
5. The discussion is well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The conclusion must be revised according to the loaded content of the data. The revised form of the conclusion would be better to be reflected in the summary.
6. The limitations of the work are stated clearly.
7. No acknowledgement exist in the text. In the discussion many examples of published studies were given.

Discretionary Revisions

8. Although the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found following suggestions can be taken into consideration.

1- In the title it is better to mention “Knowledge and attitudes of university students toward pandemic influenza A/ H1N1: a cross-sectional study from Turkey”.

2- In the abstract: methods: in the sentence beginning with “data…” the word “pandemics” in plural, sound like the questionnaire contained questions about other flu pandemics.

9. The writing is acceptable but there is need for some Minor Essential Revisions:

In the title: “... cross-sectional or cross-sectional ...”
In the background:

“Influenza is caused by a virus and mainly effects upper airways and rarely also the lungs. [1] It rapidly spreads around the world in seasonal epidemics.” These two sentences seem useless can be excluded from the background.

“Since then, WHO resource documents guided the development of national pandemic influenza plans and the rapid action in the countries where outbreaks have occurred”.

3rd paragraph:

“… antivirals and begun studies to increase public awareness simultaneously…” the word “studies” can be excluded.

4th paragraph:

the sentence beginning with “it may be …” should be corrected as “difficult to encourage public …”.

The sentence “If people …behaviours.” Should be revised. A suggestion can be: “If people believe that recommended behaviours are effective and if they get clear and sufficient information from health authorities about the effects of the outbreak, and about the serious consequences in case they are affected and the difficulty to cure the disease, …”.

In the methods

… “So, official organizations, health organizations and media have already been alerted and vaccination had already begun during the study period.”

Participants

“...The number of ... was 13000, and the total number ...”

Data collection

“… flu pandemic”

In the results

The use of past tense and present tense should be revised in general.

1st paragraph

Percentages should be corrected after the number such as 42.5%.

2nd paragraph

“As it is seen ... 26.6% ...The risk ... (respectively p=0.004 and p=0.037)…” this part is repeated in the following sentence, and can be eliminated.

4th paragraph

“Table 3 and 4 summarize(s) ...”

“Main sources of information about H1N1 pandemics were mainly media (72.1%), and internet (19.9%). The health personnel was mentioned as a source of information by only 8.0% of the whole group.” I suggest such a correction to show better the effectiveness of the information sources.
6th paragraph
“Most of the students … swine flu is a changed form of …” isn’t it better to say “variant” instead of changed form.

7th paragraph
“But 54.3% of the students in the study group “are/were” afraid of to be infected.
Last sentence is a long and complex one and should be simplified.
In the discussion
1rst paragraph
“Most of the … knowledgeable …and the effectiveness …” In the same sentence I think that it would be better not to put the expression “not to get the infection”.

4th paragraph
“Hygiene behaviours were/had been strongly recommended …”
“Although there is limited evidence for the effectiveness of face mask, “cough etiquette” or hand washing[24], … interventions lower risks of …”

5th paragraph
“It is expressed … to increase …transmission …”
“Kilbourne … hand shaking ? …” If the sentence is taken as it was written in the cited reference it is better to put it into “…”.
“Although … as it was the case…”
“Also … A/H1N1 …”
“In their study, Sypsa … increased from 47% to 63% between 35th to 44th week … and … the main reason was the belief the vaccine may not be safe.”
“Lau et al. … unless (without?) available scientific evidence …”
“Cost … country …”
“But when … reasons for not to be … effectiveness …”
“At the time … and the effectiveness of the vaccine …”
“But students … were/had been informed well …”
“In general … were knowledgeable …and were …”
In the conclusion: “recommendations”
In the references
27. “…and …”
18. “… Kristiansen IS, …”
29. “… hygiene in…”
31. “… Nikolakopoulous I, Haztakis A …”
In table 1-3: total percentages are not equal to 100.0
Table 2-4: others: male and female are not equal to 100.0
table 5: I don’t believe in the existence of swine influenza

As the points:
I have no Major Compulsory Revision, it deserves publication after minor revisions being completed. The authors could take support from a native English speaker for a last overview of the manuscript.

The manuscript does not duplicate work that the authors have published elsewhere and have not already been published in any journal in another citable form or in form of translation in its own country.

Arzu Uzuner

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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’