Reviewer's report

Title: Parental alcohol misuse and offspring hazardous drinking in a general teen-age population, gender-specific findings from the Young-HUNT 3 study

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2013

Reviewer: valeria zavan

Reviewer's report:

I appreciated the article and I think it could be interesting for the reader because it deals with a complex and challenging issue with uncertain findings in literature. It is a new piece of the puzzle about gender differences.

The article is on the whole good, clear and balanced. The questions are well defined, methods are well-described, result are well explained. The website link in which instruments and procedures of the project are published in detail is particularly appreciable. Limitation are substantially described.

A) Major Compulsory Revisions

There are no major compulsory revisions to be made.

B) Minor Essential Revisions

The article is on the whole good, clear and well-balanced. The issues are well-defined, and the methods are well-described.

1 - However, the first part of the abstract (background and method) is not very easy to understand. The reader might not immediately grasp the link between the abstract and the full text. I would suggest a few minor changes.

2 - Key words are incomplete.

3 - The writing is on the whole acceptable, and no major revision is required. However, there are some minor corrections to be made (e.g. some inconsistency between British and American spelling, a number of mistaken prepositional collocations, a few minor errors in vocabulary and a degree of uncertainty concerning the use of articles).

4 - Confounders: There is no citation concerning HADS among the references. It is not clear when this was administered

3)Discretionary Revisions

1 - background description. third paragraph: The Authors should add the two latest WHO reports (Global status report on alcohol and health, 2011 and 2013) to the references.

2 – method.

2.1 - Second paragraph: The Authors do not report how many adolescents outside the school system were added.

2.2 – The motivation for the choice of high alcohol consumption cut-off is
described clearly. However, the reader's understanding would be improved if the Authors were to better describe the criteria behind the choice (coded 1 or 0) for frequent drinkers and frequent intoxication cut-off in differing age groups (e.g. literature references or other criteria).

3 - results. Demographics: It would be helpful to the reader if the Authors were to repeat the total numbers of participants (perhaps adding the percentage of these with reference to the total number of respondents to the questionnaire), and if a brief summary of the compared samples were to be added, in order to provide a clear vision of the whole sample and of the characteristics of the two groups compared (i.e. with or without misusing parents).

The ratio between alcohol misuse fathers/mothers (1:3) is substantially in line with epidemiologic data on AUD.

4 - Discussion. The discussion is well-conducted and the data is well analyzed. It might be useful to add some consideration of the possibility that the parents’ CAGE answers and the teenagers' descriptions of parental behavior may refer to different temporal arcs, such as in the case of preceding alcohol problems. The Authors should explicitly mention their cross-controls between Q1 and Q2 questionnaires.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests