Reviewer’s report

Title: AIDS knowledge, attitudes and misconceptions in a Turkish population: an epidemiological study

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2005

Reviewer: Omar Khan

Reviewer’s report:

General

The paper aims to report some interesting findings regarding perceptions of HIV/AIDS risk factors in Turkey. There is a useful link made between the need for qualitative research and subsequent interventions relating to behavior change communication. However, the aim is let down by analysis and language that is too basic.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The level of English is not appropriate at this point. It needs significant grammatical and spelling revision before it can be considered.

While there are some interesting findings, they need to be interpreted at a less basic level, ie, a more detailed analysis is called for.

The References are, in some cases, misspelled or not detailed enough (i.e. the publisher is missing from book references). It would also help to add the translation of Turkish references into English

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Spelling mistakes on Tables and on Questionnaires

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

My suggestion would be for the author to team up with an experienced colleague in the field who can provide some more sophisticated analysis. This person or an editor/proofreader should also help with the weaknesses in language which presently hamper the readability of the paper. Once it is re-worked, the authors may consider submitting it as a letter or Short Report which may be better suited to the content and findings.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.

O. Khan, MD MHS