Reviewer's report

Title: Survey of public knowledge about Echinococcus multilocularis in four European countries: Need for proactive information

Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2008

Reviewer: Pedro Moro

Reviewer's report:

The survey collected information on demographic characteristics of participants (gender, age, etc.) but no mention of educational level and occupation is made. I think it is important to look at the educational level especially if the study deals with knowledge and attitudes about a zoonosis. If this information was collected the authors may want to report the analysis of the survey questions based on this variable. If this was not collected the authors may want to comment this as a limitation.

The survey contained only five questions but a few more questions could have been included. For example, it would be important to know where the participants received the information on alveolar echinococcosis (AE) or an alternative would be to ask from what source they get most of their health information. The answers to these questions would be important in the planning of health education programs for AE.

The authors do not state how the sample size of participants was determined in the methods section.

Additional questions in the survey could have provided important information. The authors need to indicate this as a limitation of the survey.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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