Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnostic self-tests on body materials in the Netherlands: prevalence and correlates of use

Version: 1 Date: 27 November 2008

Reviewer: Gerald Haidinger

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

I am not able to compare the revised manuscript to the original version, but after reading the revised text, many of my remarks on the first manuscript are still valid:

Since the results pertain to a quite large (and maybe representative, see below) sample of Dutch internet users, the title of the manuscript ("in the Netherlands") implies the report on a representative survey of a sample of Netherlands population. This is misleading and needs to be changed: the authors report the use of self-tests in a group of internet-users which could differ a lot from the Dutch population.

The total number of panel members (www.flycatcher.nl) who were addressed is still missing ("over 12000 persons" is too vague). Therefore the calculation of participation and prevalence is disallowed. How come, that 7919 respondents constitute a 63.2% response rate (this would bring the number of addressees up to some 12530)? It is unclear why the authors did not react on my objection in the first review.

In my opinion the quotation of the x2-results is not necessary, the giving of P-values is sufficient.

"We found that 16% of a representative sample of Internet users had ever used a self-test" (first sentence of discussion): representativity is not proven and I was not able to find an evidentiary citation on that matter in the references list.

And even if the sample is representative for internet users (which I doubt), selection bias could still influence results, an issue which must at least be mentioned in the discussion section of the manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions

The term "sex" still is preferred to "gender".

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

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