Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring reasons for non-vaccination against Human Papillomavirus in Italy.

Version: 1 Date: 3 May 2014

Reviewer: Giuseppe La Torre

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions

- The main problem of this paper is concerning the sample size. In the methods the authors state “We needed a 108 sample of at least 96 units for each LHU/region to provide sufficient power to generate estimates at 109 local/regional level”, but they did not explain how they calculate this number and which are the parameters involved. Please explain in details

- Concerning the questionnaire, the authors stated they conducted a pilot study “We piloted the questionnaire with a convenience sample of parents to ensure clarity and ease of administration, and modified accordingly”. It is wise to show some relevant figure for this, i.e. reliability and validity of the questionnaire (including Chronbach’s alpha)

- The way the authors performed the multivariate analysis is missing. Please give details on the use of the variables, the way they built the models of logistic regression, the way they checked the goodness of fit of the models.

- In the discussion section there is a lack of references that deal with Italian studies on this issue. A simple Pubmed query using the terms “HPV vaccination Italy knowledge” shows some interesting papers that must be used for comparing the results of VALORE study to those achieved in other Italian studies

• Minor Essential Revisions

In the abstract, the results presented deal only to frequency distribution. The authors must remove some percentage and add relevant results coming from the multivariate analysis

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests