Reviewer’s report

Title: Parental attitudes towards HPV vaccination of their sons: a pan-European study

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2014

Reviewer: Hina Rahee

Reviewer’s report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVIEWS

General Comments:
1. Use the word males instead of sons
2. Use P-value to support the statements on the significance of factors (in statistical analysis)
3. The use of figure numbers to depict tables in inappropriate. Please note that figures may refer to graphs or pictures etc. whereas tables particularly refer to tabular depiction of results. Please use the words appropriately and ensure the use of correct table titles in text as given on each table.
4. Give Recommendations in your discussion

Abstract:
Missing. Please include a structured abstract.

Introduction:
• Second last line “In Europe, approximately ……women, respectively”——-needs grammar revision
• Para 3, second line “Overall, it has been shown that……as positive factors”….. too long sentence, make shorter and clearer sentence.
• Para 3, third last line, instead of CC vaccine for girls, say CC prevention vaccine for girls.
• Para 4, line 3, “The aim was to gain…related to acceptability”, please end the sentence at ‘acceptance of male HPV vaccination’. Or justify the special mention of socio-economic factors.

Methods:
• What procedure was used to obtained the list of telephone numbers
• Please mention the reason for the use of different interview techniques across the four countries (telephonic and face to face)
• Please mention the sample size calculation
• Last para in methods section, third last line, instead of mentioning the question numbers please mention the details these questions inquired. For example, instead of mentioning analysis was carried out for Q4, mention analysis was
carried out for attitude.

Results:

• Renumber the figures as table 1-3 for use in results section and mention the same title as given to respective tables.

• Insert a new table as table 1 depicting the socio-demographic information of participants across the four countries. The information given in paragraph 2, starting from line 2 “Number and gender of the children in household……... “ till the last line in this paragraph, put it in the same new table. Kindly mention P-value to show if there was any significant difference among the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants from four countries.

• Para 3, first line, instead of correlates use the word drivers or associated factors.

• Para 3, last line where it is mentioned “rejecters had significantly lower uptake of childhood vaccines.” Mention P-value to support your statement of this being significant. This comment remains the same wherever the word significant is being used in results section.

• Kindly also mention is there was any significant difference (supported by P-value) in the rate of approvers among the four countries and comment on it in results section.

• Pooled analysis: What technique was used for pooled analysis. Was the data weighted for differences in four countries or no.----give a clear idea about the analysis used to the readers.

Discussion:

• Para 2, which mentions the strengths and limitations of study should come as second last paragraph before conclusion.

• The word “structural incentives” have been used repeatedly which is unclear. Kindly explain what is meant by structural incentives.

• Put a separate paragraph on your recommendations based on the obtained results and the value this study adds to the scientific knowledge.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVIEWS

Introduction:

• Para 1, 2nd line---- Please use the full form Europe with the abbreviation (EU) in parenthesis for the first time and then consistently use the abbreviation

• Para 3, line 4, instead of both sexes use the word for both males and females.

Methods:

• Para 2,----more appropriate if moved to introduction

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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