Reviewer's report

Title: Addressing issues of vaccination literacy and psychological empowerment in the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination decision-making: a qualitative study.

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Reviewer: Alberto E Tozzi

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is interesting in that it explores at the same time two aspects of the complex process of decision to vaccinate. The results are to be taken into account when starting immunization programs. I have only small comments:

1. As it was designed, participants in the study may have been strongly selected. The Authors acknowledge this potential bias in the discussion. As in most studies that require a response to a questionnaire or other active role, this is often unavoidable. The Authors may stress this point underlining that the results may not be generalizable to the whole population and that the number of participants, as in most qualitative studies, cannot precisely reflect the profile of the whole population;

2. The second comment is about the potential to translate the Author's results into practical recommendations. The Authors mostly focus on the family-pediatrician relationship. Indeed, in a collaborative trusty relationship, this seems the most important take home message. Providing clear and concise information is important, but may not be sufficient and sometimes may elicit even negative reactions. I agree with the Authors that building a solid relationship between the family and pediatricians is crucial. The Authors may comment on the difficulty in following this principle simply because an active engagement requires more work time by health professionals;

3. Personal beliefs and behaviors may strongly depend on cultural settings. I am not surprised that immigrants seem to cluster differently from the rest of the population. I would encourage the Authors to clarify that qualitative studies may be needed at the local level.

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:

My institution received grants for research studies on vaccine from Pfizer, Sanofi
Pasteur MSD, and Glaxo SmithKline.