Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral and dental health care practices in pregnant women in Australia: a postnatal survey

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Mona Jazayeri
Assistant editor
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Dear Mona,


Thank you for your letter and reviewers comments on our manuscript. We have addressed all the suggestions from the reviewers below.

REVIEWER 1:

General:
Why were women who needed an interpreter classified as ineligible to participate in the study?
An interpreter was not available for this study therefore women were not able to be included.

Minor Essential Revisions:
It is not stated if the dental care provided during pregnancy is covered by the insurance companies, if it is free of charge, or if the pregnant women have to pay for this service.
In the discussion we have added on page 11 of the manuscript a section about dental care costs and referenced the suggested paper.

REVIEWER 2:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The sample size and response rate should be mentioned at the end of the methods section.
We have amended the relevant section under methods as requested.

2. The second sentence “Women who returned the survey were more likely to be older (p<0.05) than non-respondents.” should be moved to be the first sentence under the heading “Baseline demographic characteristics”.
We have moved this sentence as requested.
3. There are too many short chapters in the Results-section. It would be easier to read the text if some of the titles could be omitted and the text moved under the other titles. We have changed the text as suggested.

4. The last sentence “Women who had completed secondary school were less likely…” should be moved after the second paragraph under the heading “Current dental health status”, page 8. This has been completed.

5. “Socio-economic status” page 11: The first sentence should be moved to the end of the section “Knowledge of dental practices”, page 7. This has been done.

6. “Socio-economic status” page 11: The second sentence should be placed under the heading “Current dental health status”, page 8. We have completed this.

7. “Age and parity” page 11: Sentences under this heading should be moved under the title “Knowledge of dental practices”, page 7. We have completed this change.

8. RESULTS page 9: The text under the title “Dental habits while pregnant” does not fit to the title. The title should be modified or even omitted. This part of the text could be part of the chapter “Dental attendance…” The title has been omitted and the text moved as suggested.

9. RESULTS page 9: “Current dental health status” –chapter would be better if placed under the chapter “Current dental practices”, page 8 This has been completed.

10. RESULTS page 11: It was mentioned here that the higher parity was associated with greater knowledge of fluoridated water and fluoride preventing tooth decay. We did not conduct other analyses related to parity.

11. “…because some women simply cannot afford to maintain an adequate level of dental hygiene or regular dental visits.” Is this really true in Australia? Please see Reviewer 1; Question 1: We have added a section on costs into the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Page 3, second paragraph line 6: “…has demonstrated periodontal disease…” should be ‘…has demonstrated that periodontal disease…’ This has been done.

2. Page 8: Under the heading “Dental attendance…” in the 3. line “scale and clean” would be better “scaling and cleaning”. Same correction to the next page under the heading “Dental habits while pregnant”, second paragraph second line. We have completed this.
3. Page 10: under the heading “Education”, second line “…agree the use of dental floss…” should be ‘…agree that the use of dental floss…’
This has been done.

4. Page 12: Second paragraph line 4: “scale and clean” should be ‘scaling and cleaning’
This has been done.

5. REFERENCES There should be ‘:’ after the authors, not full stop.
This has been done.

Please let us know if there are any further points requiring clarification. Please find attached the amended manuscript. We will look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

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