Reviewer's report

Title: Household smoking and dental caries in schoolchildren: the Ryukyus Child Health Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2009

Reviewer: Othman Shibly

Reviewer's report:

This paper “Household smoking and dental caries in schoolchildren: the Ryukyus Child Health Study.” Is very important paper at it might be of interest to the readers of this Journal.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The abstract is little bit week on the result section. I think it should include some data that give the reader quick information on how harmful smoking compared to non-smokers household. The results only state significant difference without any data showing the magnitude of differences.

2) Another point the authors classified toothbrushing frequency into 2 (1 or less and _2 times per day).
I believe that should be distinction between people who brush once a day and those who do not brush at all. Putting them together as the authors did may influence the outcome.

Minor Essential Revisions

3) Authors used terms such as “approximal caries”. They meant interproximal caries. I think they should re edit the paper from English perspective.

Discretionary Revisions

Authors adjusted confounding factors such as diet, intake of sugars. sex, etc I think data will be more meaningful had they showed the data before adjusting especially that related to sugar intake and caries.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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