Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2010

Reviewer: Scott L. Tomar

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the reviewers’ comments. I note just a few suggested discretionary revisions.

1. p. 10, para 1. While it is true that many of the studies on smoking and dental caries did not control for potential confounding, it is more likely in this case that uncontrolled confounding would lead to positive associations between smoking and caries than no association. Smoking is not uniformly distributed in most developed countries; it is generally associated with lower income, less education, lower levels of preventive behaviors, poorer diet, and higher levels of co-morbidity -- the same factors generally associated with increased risk for caries.

2. p. 11. I know another reviewer suggest using the word "interproximal" for caries lesions, but it is actually incorrect. Caries occurs on tooth surfaces, not between adjacent teeth as the word "interproximal" suggests. The correct terminology is proximal caries or approximal caries.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests