Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationship between tooth loss and mortality in 80-year-old Japanese community-dwelling subjects

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Ms. Nina Titmus
The BioMed Central Editorial Team

Dear Ms. Titmus,

Thank you very much for your reply as well as sending the comments from the Reviewer concerning our manuscript (MS: 8284165272983197). After reviewing those carefully, we made several changes to the text and believe that our study has been greatly improved. We trust that this revised version is now acceptable for publication in *BMC Public Health*.

Changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted in yellow or green. In addition, our responses to the reviewer are shown following. We sincerely thank the reviewers for their valuable insights and you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely,

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Following are our replies to the comments of the Reviewers:

Referee 1:

Major points:

1. Tables 1 and 2: The tables should be remade.
   We agree with the comment. The data in the tables were reanalyzed, and we have added a second category for binary variables, as well as the percentage died after the died number.

2. Before splitting the logistic regression analyses into subgroup, the interactions should be examined.
   We have added several sentences of explanation in this regard (page 9).
3. The first paragraph of the Discussion section should be reconsidered.
   Based on the comment, ORs for never- and current and past smokers have been added in Tables 3 & 4. In addition, related sentences in the Discussion section have been rewritten to remove any ambiguity.

Minor points:
1. Some percentages have been misunderstanding.
   We agree. Those sentences have been reworded.
2. With regard to P values in chi-square test.
   Based on the comment, those analyses were performed using a Pearson chi-square test, with explanations added to the Methods section, and footnotes of Tables 1 and 2.

Referee 2:
Based on the comment, the whole text in the manuscript has been checked by the professional copyediting service to improve the English. The Changes are highlighted in green.