Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 30 September 2009

Reviewer: Shahrokh Esfandiari

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Minor Essential Revisions

The text needs another attempt at editing. [i.e. eliminate futile sentences like the one on page 5, last paragraph “The candidates for participation in the present study totaled a total of 1282 individuals residing in 3 cities….”, can easily be replaced by “1282 candidates from 3 cities and … agreed to participate”]. At many occasions I had to go back to re-read the text for better understanding.

Questions/Remarks

Can authors respond/clarify the following points?

1-Why 4 and 5.5 years interval were chosen? Were these parameters arbitrary chosen? Have they been based on the Japanese life expectancy if so mentioning it is essential

2-Was there any a priori sample size calculations?

3-what accounts for the significant difference between the mortality at 5.5vs 4-year follow-up of never-smokers males?

4-with a response rate of %54, authors need to explore/investigate possible reasons. Was this related to location, sociodemographic, or the general health of these individuals? This type of information can be quite helpful in future studies among these populations

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests