Author's response to reviews

Title: Dental and prosthodontic status of an urban and rural population over 40 years in Shandong Province, China

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer 1

The title may change to “Dental and prosthodontic status of over 40 year-old population in Shandong Province, China”

We have changed the title accordingly

The abstract is 527 words and is very long.

We are aware of the fact that the abstract is long. However, in compliance with the previous suggestions of the reviewers we included all topics studied and discussed in the abstract. We have removed one sentence. We feel that further reduction would result in loosing information.

In the first paragraph of the methods, 6 lines describing the place of study, that seems not to be interesting for the readers. It can be summarized.

This part has been summarized

In results: Decayed teeth, last paragraph: each additional year of age gives a lower chance for having decayed molars (OR = 0.984; p = 0.002). The value for OR is close to one. It would be better to report the differences within a five- year time-period, to show more clearly the differences of mean numbers of decayed teeth with a significant OR.

OR for molars decay for a 5-year period has been added in the text.

In discussion, one paragraph discussed the dental regions, while a large part of results and figures are allocated to regions, I suppose there is an imbalance.

A few sentences were added in the discussion referring to the relation dental regions and oral function.

Please round the percentage values all over the text as much as possible, to give a clearer image to the reader. If OR is reported in two digits, please report it in two digits everywhere.

All ORs are now reported in two digits; p-values in more than 2 digits have not been changed because otherwise relevant information would be lost.

I could not find the sentences reporting percentages for functional dentition in the results and discussion. However, in the conclusion, it was mentioned that the WHO goal was not achieved.

In the results section this topic was already reported. We added a small paragraph discussing the topic in the discussion section. Two references were added.

In discussion part, the paragraphs are long. The text in the 4th (?) paragraph is full of percentage values or numbers. Please summarize the percentages as reporting the range of differences among populations or according to the studies.

The percentages have been summarized and now the range is reported.
Please write number of the subjects in Table 4 and check other tables and figures.

**Number of subjects has been added and all tables and figures have checked.**

*In references, some lines are blue, and punctuation needs to be corrected.*

**Punctuation has been checked and corrected.**

*Please avoid numbers and figures in conclusion, and summarize the conclusion.*

**The text has been altered.**