Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 14 May 2011

Reviewer: Hossein Hessari

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's comments
The manuscript is well revised; however, some points remained.
The title may change to “Dental and prosthodontic status of over 40 year-old population in Shandong Province, China”
The abstract is 527 words and is very long.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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 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.
Please write number of the subjects in Table 4 and check other tables and figures.
In references, some lines are blue, and punctuation needs to be corrected.
Please avoid numbers and figures in conclusion, and summarize the conclusion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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