Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors related to children's caries: a structural equation modeling approach

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Reviewer: Norman Tinanoff

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This manuscript, Factors related to children's caries: a structural equation modeling approach is a cross sectional study of 1332 children in the Guangzhou district of China. The purpose of this study is to explore factor related to children's caries and how these factors influence caries in a multi-structural model, using variables such as socioeconomic status, caregivers oral health knowledge, caregivers attitudes, caregivers oral health practices, and children's oral health practices, all related to children's dental caries. The paper is well organized and well written. The methods appear sound; the number of subjects appropriate. The results section, especially the figures are well done. The discussion is appropriate with good explanation of the study limitations.

Although there are many previous studies to examine caries risk factors and caries, this perhaps is the first that uses structural equation modeling. This approach has allowed these authors to make advances in the understanding of the relationships between caries, SES, role models, oral health knowledge, and practices. This certainly will have application to dental practitioners and policy makers.

The only criticism is that the reference section has many errors. There are some references that need web addresses; there are some references that include the issues number and some that do not; there are citations of books, but without page numbers.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflicts of interest