Reviewer's report

Title: Association between parental guilt and oral health problems in preschool children: A hierarchical approach

Version: 1 Date: 17 April 2014

Reviewer: Valdenice VA Menezes

Reviewer's report:

• Minor Essential Revisions
  A general way the article is interesting and presents a different approach that draws attention to another aspect of health problems during childhood. The representative sample is strong aspect of the study. The paper is well written, clear and well organized manner. However, it is recommended to review some points presented below.

In the introduction, on lines 77 and 78, should be reviewed the generalization of the “deficient” health care in Brazil, as the reference articles presented only specific data from small cities in one Brazilian state. I am not sure that the word “deficient” is appropriate in this case.

When defining the aim of this study, in lines 78-80, it is necessary to review the sentence. It is suggested: "...of children's oral health problems on parental guilt in the ..." replacing “...of oral health problems in preschool children on parental guilt...”

Regarding the diagnosis of malocclusion, in line 196, it is recommended to specify that the posterior crossbite will be sub-divided into unilateral and bilateral.

It is necessary to clarify the lack of studies on parental guilt, as cite in line 236, when the authors state that "...only two studies have focused on parental guilt in relation to oral health problems". However, in lines 243 and 244, the authors cite other 3 studies relating guilt of parents regarding the oral health problems of children. In addition, it is necessary to review the paragraph that starts on line 241 and ends at line 248.

In the discussion, it is suggested to review the relationship established between the parental guilt and the quality of life issue.

The text presents important information, I recommend the publication, however, it is necessary some corrections.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

I declare that I have no competing interests.