Reviewer's report

Title: Five aspects of musculoskeletal disorders in dentists

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2004

Reviewer: James Lalumandier

Reviewer’s report:

Overall I found the article well done.

Discretionary Revisions: It would be beneficial to see if there were any differences between the respondents and non-respondents. It would have been good to know the average number of patients treated and hours worked per week or month, but I assume that data was not collected.

Major Compulsory Revisions: (1) The authors separated dentists by general dentists (61%), specialists (8%), and those with post-graduate degrees (31%). It is confusing what the last category means. If you are a dentist, you are generally either a general dentist or specialist. There are very few in the US anyway who are DDS/PhDs or DMD/PhDs who do not consider themselves a general dentist or specialist. This bring me to my second comment. (2) Dental Specialists and general dentists have very different musculoskeletal problems (see "Muculoskeletal Pain: Prevalence, Prevention, and Differences among Dental Office Personnel" published in General Dentistry, March-April 2001, in which the authors studied 887 general dentists and 399 specialist.

Accept after Major Compulsory Revisions addressed.