Reviewer’s report

Title: Temporomandibular joint disorders severity related to the degree of mouth opening and hearing loss.

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2011

Reviewer: Thais Chaves

Reviewer’s report:

The paper entitled “TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DISORDERS SEVERITY CORRELATES WITH THE DEGREE OF MOUTH OPENING AND HEARING LOSS” is an interesting report about the association between TMD and hearing loss.

Many aspects were improved in this new version, but there are some points that need revision.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) In the title, in the objective, discussion and in many parts of the text it must be mentioned that only “signs and symptoms” of TMD were assessed. If the TMD was not diagnosed it must be clarified to the readers.

2) There many tables. Please, the tables must be redesigned to allocate more variables. The authors could condense the variables in 2 or 3 tables. All the comparisons between male X female must be described in only one table. And another table must contain the comparisons between TMD severity groups. Describe only mean values, standard deviations and p-values (and the statistics test applied). There are so many descriptive factors for the same variable.

3) The results were improved but it’s still long and confuse. There are so many data described. It must be shortened. It’s not necessary to describe again in results what is illustrated on tables. The results must be shortened.

4) I insist that instead of the statistical significance observed, it could not be verified a clinical significance in your data of mouth opening range of motion (Since 44 mm of mouth opening could be considered functional). This range of motion is inside normal values, since we could not assign this patient to a clinic to be submitted to a treatment to increase mouth opening values). Thus, it’s crucial to include such aspects in the discussion of the paper.

5) There are 75 references. It must be reduced as much as possible. I suggest no more than 50 references.

6) I persist that the tool employed only describes signs and symptoms of TMD. The utility of this kind of study was not in check. It’s necessary to discuss that the presence of TMD signs and symptoms in the sample evaluated could not be seen as a synomium of TMD presence. Thus it’s possible that when submitted to a clinical assessment, many volunteers of this study will not be diagnosed as TMD. Dworkin et al (J Am Dent Assoc. 1990 Mar;120(3):273-81) reported that
community cases have many signs and symptoms of TMD, as well as TMD cases). Thus it must be discussed on the paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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