Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-Reported Dental Hygiene and Health, Obesity, and Systemic Inflammation in a Pediatric Rural Community Cohort

Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2009

Reviewer: Giuseppina Campisi

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor,
I have revised the manuscript “1754654971239985 Self-Reported Dental Hygiene and Health, Obesity, and Systemic Inflammation in a Pediatric Rural Community Cohort of Stephanie J Frisbee, Christopher B Chambers, Jefferson C Frisbee, Adam G Goodwill and Richard J Crout” and the authors’ response. Unfortunately not all precedent comments have been satisfied.

It remains clear that such a questionnaire is inadequate for evaluating oral health, especially in children and the missing of the intraoral examination is a very important limit for oral health status.

Date of the participants are not plainly exposed, in fact in the Methods section, the participants are 128 of < 19 years and of these only children #10 years of age (number not quantified) completed questions about health and lifestyle habits. Besides, 91 of 128 blood samples were available for biochemical analysis.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria of selection people are not described. Since the patients with acute infection were eliminated from study, positive anamnesis for chronic systemic diseases, such as pre-existent cardiovascular condition or a mucosal oral/pharyngeal inflammatory conditions (typical in children’s) could be a valid criterion.

The relationship between dental health, obesity, systemic inflammation and cardiovascular risk also should be discussed, such as clinical and future implications of these findings (the importance of preventive dental care).

Note:
In the second paragraph of Introduction section, it is not written the acronym of BMI.

In the second paragraph of Discussion section Kantovitz 2006 is cited. Please insert in References section.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'