Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 15 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Anders K Gustafsson

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions
The revision of this manuscript has led to considerable improvements. However, I still find the way the results are presented somewhat confusing:

Table 2 is difficult to understand. What is the CVD risk factor? Is that something else than BMI. And why isn’t the BMI presented as mean (SD) in the same way as the other variables. Even if it doesn’t reach statistical significance it would still be interesting to see the data.

Table 3 What is included in the statistical model? Under results it says that dental hygiene, preventive dental care or dental health were included in all models. In the text under the table and in the discussion it says that only overall dental health is included.

Discussion
The possibility that other variables, not included in the statistical models, such as socioeconomic factors besides parent education or blood glucose levels may influence the results should be discussed.

What is really determining if a child has very good or poor dental health?

Minor Essential Revisions
Kantovitz 2006 needs a number (second paragraph of discussion)
Some references have the number of the issue included and some have not. I don’t know which it should be but guess that it is good if it is consistent.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'