Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 14 June 2010

Reviewer: Giuseppina Campisi

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

I revised for the third time 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 of the 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 the assessment of oral health status.

In section Results:

1) it is not written the acronyms GLP, IFN, MIP, MPO, TNF, VCAM, tPAI and VEGF.

2) The table should be more clear. Did any child have diabetes?

3) Why the authors did not include HDL, diabetes, blood pressure, diagnosis of metabolic syndrome in the analysis?

In section Discussion:

In this section, the authors cited the flossing methods. Objectives measurements should be used to evaluate the correct oral hygiene of the young patients. It is insufficient to use only a questionnaire.

Table 2b It is not understandable which the values of markers of systemic
inflammation are associated with?

At the following standard points, the answers are:
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? NO
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? NO
3. Are the data sound? NO
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Quite YES
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? NO
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? YES
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? YES
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

Specific Major Compulsory Revisions
In my opinion, the authors need solve problems noted previously and currently by referee before a decision on publication can be reached.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'