Reviewer's report

Title: A Case-Control Study of Determinants for High and Low Dental Caries Prevalence in Nevada Youth

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2010

Reviewer: Guglielmo Campus

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

this part has to move into discussion section "Unlike NHANES, there were restrictions placed by the funding agency in our study preventing the use of compressed air and explorers. However, researchers compared studies using visual methods without probes and drying with studies using visual/tactile methods with explorers and compressed air and subsequently found that only in groups with low caries prevalence were statistical differences observed [11]. Additionally, there is an increasing amount of research that indicates the use of a dental explorer for assessing noncavitated incipient lesions may not be a best practice approach [12]. Some experts suggest that the use of an explorer for this purpose can penetrate the surface and convert a subsurface lesion to a frank cavity [13]. Additionally, there have been a number of false-positive diagnoses on occlusal surfaces thus indicating the value of the dental explorer is limited [9, 12, 13]. In this study, the prevalence of dental caries

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Nevada youth is higher than the national average, therefore considered high prevalence and it was not felt that this would bias the results."

no minor revision

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests