Reviewer’s report

Title: Dental anxiety and dental attendance among 25-year-olds in Norway: time trends from 1997 to 2007

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2011

Reviewer: Ephraim Winocur

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors

Re: 'Dental anxiety and dental attendance among 25-year-olds in Norway: time trends from 1997 to 2007'

I revised the manuscript and found it of interest to reader of the BMC.

The title is adequately reflecting the content of the manuscript. The abstract adequately describes the study. The introduction is concise and well written. The objectives are clearly stated and the question posed by the authors well defined. The material and methods appropriate and well described. The statistical analysis is appropriate. The results are presented in an orderly manner. The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition. They are clear and to the point. The tables are adequate and clear as well. The discussion is quite succinct and contains an overview of the available studies on the same subject. The discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The writing is acceptable.

The main limitations and criticism is the moderate (62%) and low (19%) response rates achieved in 1997 and 2007, that as stated by you "may have biased the estimates and thus constitutes a threat to the external validity of the results".

Nevertheless, I recommend its acceptance for publication because of the importance of the subject.

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