Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of photographic, replication and direct clinical examination methods for detecting developmental defects of enamel

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2010

Reviewer: Jack Toumba

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

Re: BMC Oral Health: "A comparison of photographic, replication and direct clinical examination methods for detecting developmental defects of enamel".

The paper compares three methods of assessing developmental defects of enamel (DDE). This is an interesting topic that has important clinical relevance.

1. Overall the paper is exceptionally well written and presented with only a couple of very minor typographical errors. The abstract is concise and informative.

2. The introduction and literature review was very informative giving an up to date overview of the topic and previous work. However an important article of relevance is missing: Robertson AJ and Toumba KJ (1999). Cross-polarized photography in the study of enamel defects in dental paediatrics. J of Audiovisual Media in Medicine; 22:63-70. I would advise that this article is included in both the background and discussion.

3. The aims of this study were clear.

4. The materials and methods section described the methodology employed to a very good standard.

5. The three methods of assessment of DDE employed are well established techniques for this research study.

6. The design of the study was appropriate as were the statistical analyses employed.

7. The results are presented clearly in four tables.

8. The discussion and conclusions read well and are based on the results of the study. The findings are interesting and of scientific value. The authors give reasoned explanations for their findings. The discussion will need some minor amendments to include the article referred to in point 2 above.

9. There were 21 references in the reference list that were accurately cited in the text.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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’