Reviewer's report

Title: Factors influencing patients' satisfaction with dental appearance and their desired treatment need to improve aesthetics

Version: 1 Date: 5 November 2010

Reviewer: Marc W Heft

Reviewer's report:

The authors report findings from a study that seeks to address factors influencing patient reports of satisfaction with dental appearance. The approach is limited by the inclusion of only patient self-reports to a narrow range of questions. While my enthusiasm is tempered, inclusion of the following would be helpful:

1. Provide a Table with the wording for all questions posed to the patients.

2. Were there any other questions on the patient entry forms that queried whether the patient had a 'perceived need' for dental care, i.e., why have they sought care (dental pain, other symptoms, need a cleaning, etc.)? These data would be useful in building the model.

3. Were there any objective 'clinician-determined' variables (such as dental caries, tooth fractures, number of remaining teeth, adequacy of removable partial dentures, etc.)?

If the authors cannot provide data in response to #2 and #3, the report is only a minor contribution to the literature.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'