Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Risk Indicators of Gingivitis and Periodontitis in a Multi-Centre Study in North Jordan: a cross sectional case-control study.

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2011

Reviewer: Esmonde Corbet

Reviewer's report:

Title. Given the convenience nature of the studied sample, this study cannot report on the prevalence of any disease in North Jordan. As will be dealt with below, risk indicators for gingivitis cannot be studied because by the convention supplied by the authors those with periodontitis, who also have marginal gingival inflammation, are not considered to have gingivitis. Therefore only risk indicators for periodontitis can be studied. This is not a “case-control study”. The title should then read something like Risk Indicators of Periodontitis in North Jordan: a multicentre study.

Abstract. The working definition of AgP would not be widely or generally accepted. The authors would be well advised to collapse AgP and CP into ‘Periodontitis” and just use periodontitis throughout. The overall prevalence cannot be presented or considered as there is no indication that this convenience sample is representative of the population of North Jordan. The age distribution does not follow the country statistics. How then can overall prevalences be considered. It would be better to present the periodontitis findings by writing something like: ‘The prevalence of periodontitis increased with increasing age, reaching 53% in those over 50 years of age’ (which seems a low prevalence, I must confide).

The section on Diagnosis will need to be changed. Results need to be presented afresh. All analyses on gingivitis will need to be deleted, and a concentration on ‘periodontitis’ only be achieved. The discussion will need to drop “gingivitis” and concentration on periodontitis. The Discussion is perhaps too long.

The Conclusions section needs to be rewritten but the sentences calling for larger scale studies (of random samples) country-wide should be retained.

Tables 1, 2 will need to be changed to periodontitis; no/yes. Tables 3 (assuming that GI is for all subjects, other than healthy subjects) and 4 can remain as at present.

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.