Author's response to reviews

Title: Parental reports of the oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy

Authors:

Jenny Abanto (jennyaa@usp.br)
Thiago S Carvalho (thiagosaads@usp.br)
Marcelo S Bönecker (bonecker@usp.br)
Adriana O.L. Ortega (aliraort@uol.com.br)
Ana L Ciamponi (analidia@usp.br)
Daniela P Raggio (danielar@usp.br)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Impact of health conditions on oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy
Version: 2 Date: 19 April 2011
Reviewer: Zoe Marshman

Reviewer's report:
Impact of health condition on oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Further limitations should be included
   Further limitations of the study were included in the discussion section. (page 11)
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? The title should be amended to ‘Parental reports of the oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy’
   The title was changed to “Parental reports of the oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy”
9. Is the writing acceptable? Generally yes

This study describes a cross sectional survey of the impact of oral conditions on the daily lives of children with cerebral palsy as reported by their parents. While the paper is generally well written there are a few amendments that are required:

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Throughout the manuscript the authors should refer to the participants as children with cerebral palsy, instead of defining the children by their condition and using the term ‘CP children’.
   The CP children terminology was changed to “children with CP”.
2. The title should be amended to ‘Parental reports of the oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy’. The use of parents as proxies should be referred to in the aim in the abstract, in the background section of page 3 and in the discussion.
   The use of parents as proxies was referred in the aim of the abstract, in the background and in the discussion.
3. Background – in the second paragraph the authors state that children with CP have higher risk of oral disease due to the difficulty with effective oral
hygiene, the authors should consider the contribution of diet as well as oral care. The diet and oral care were considered as possible contributors to the poor oral health in children with CP. (page 3)

4. In the method section the authors should state why they chose to use proxies rather than ask the children themselves. The reasons that made the authors use parents as proxies were highlighted in the methods section. “The proxy-report was chosen due to the difficulties to assess self-report in most of these children”. (page 5)

5. The authors describe the way they handled ‘don’t know’ responses in their analysis, other ways of handling don’t know responses are described in: Z Marshman, HD Rodd, M Stern, C Mitchell, PG Robinson. Evaluation of the Parental Perceptions Questionnaire, a component of the COHQoL, for use in the UK. Community Dental Health 2007; 24: 198-204. This paper should be referred to here. The suggested paper was referred in the methods section. (page 5)

6. The global ratings are not normally included in the P-CPQ or FIS total scores. It is not clear whether they are included in this study (p5), the authors need to clarify this as it has implications for comparability of the results. A sentence was added to clarify this statement. (page 6)

7. In the discussion, the limitations of the study should include the level of agreement between child reports and the reports of parents as proxies, several studies have investigated the nature of this agreement. Such limitation was included in the end of the discussion section. (page 11)

8. On page 10, the authors describe the impact of lower income, they should discuss the findings of the paper by Locker 2007 (reference number 16). Some considerations were done in relation to Locker’s (2007) manuscript. (page 10)

9. The numbering of the reference list starts at 0, this should be re-numbered. The reference numbers were corrected.

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

Impact of health conditions on oral health-related quality of life of children with cerebral palsy

Abstract

Results

1. The effect of severity of dental caries on OHRQoL is significant with $p=0.025$, therefore please change the following sentence: “…only the reduction of communication ability and dental caries severity had a negative impact on the OHRQoL ($p<0.01$)” to “…only the reduction of communication ability and dental caries severity had a negative impact on the OHRQoL ($p<0.05$)”. The sentence was changed to “…only the reduction of communication ability and dental caries severity had a negative impact on the OHRQoL ($p<0.05$)”.

2. The effect of severity of the type of CP on functional limitations is significant with $p=0.011$, therefore please change the following sentence: “…the severity of the type of CP and its reduction of communication ability showed a negative impact on oral symptoms and functional limitations domains ($p<0.01$)” to “…the severity of the type of CP and its reduction of communication ability showed a negative impact on oral symptoms and functional limitations domains ($p<0.05$)”. The sentence was changed to “…the severity of the type of CP and its reduction of communication ability showed a negative impact on oral symptoms and functional limitations domains ($p<0.05$)”.

3. As the $p$-value for the covariates “dental caries” and “communication ability” is 0.001, please change the following sentence “…positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP ($P<0.001$)” to “…positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP ($P<0.001$)”. The sentence was changed to “…positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP ($P<0.001$)”. 

Background

Page 3 Line 12 Please see the following recently published paper which evaluated the oral health-related quality of life of preschool children with cerebral palsy Du RY, McGrath C, Yiu CK, King NM. Health- and oral health-related quality of life among preschool children with cerebral palsy. Qual Life Res 2010; 19: 1367-71.

Date from Du et al.’s research were added in the discussion section. (page 10)

Methods

Sampling and procedure

1. Please include details of the ethical board.

Details of the ethical board were added.
2. Page 4 Line 3 How many parents who had children with CP attending the Center of Attendance for Special Needs patients-CAPE were invited to participate in the study over the phone?
   The number of parents/children with CP enrolled at the Center of Attendance for Special needs patient – CAPE was included. (page 4)

3. What are the types of dental treatment provided to CP children by the Center of Attendance for Special Needs patients – CAPE of the Dental School, University of Sao Paulo?
   The types of treatments performed at CAPE were included. (page 4)

Data collection
Line 12 Pls replace “exam” with “examination”.
   The word exam was changed to examination.

Data analysis
Page 7 Line 4 “… a multivariate model was built with several covariates, selected by a forward stepwise procedure with p<0.20 as the cut-off point”. Pls specify the covariates selected.
   The covariates included in the analysis were specified in the text. (page 7)

Impairment characteristics of the child
Pls include the following sentence in this section: “The parents were also asked if the children have seizures”.
   The sentence “The parents were also asked if the children have seizures” was included in the section of: Impairment characteristics of the child. (page 4)

Results
1. What is the response rate of this study? How many parents gave their consent for their children to participate in the study? How many parents complete OHRQoL and socioeconomic questionnaires?
   The response rate was included in the text. (page 7)

2. Page 7 Line 26 Pls note that the p-value for the effect of type of CP on FL is 0.011, therefore pls revise the following sentence “…regarding oral symptoms and functional limitations (p<0.01)” to “…regarding oral symptoms and functional limitations (p<0.05)”.
   The sentence was revised and corrected. “p<0.05” (page 8)

3. Page 7 Line 30 Pls add “impact score” after “… negative impact on the family”.
   The words “impact score” was added to the sentence. (page 8)

4. Page 8 Line 1 Pls add “P=0.004” after fathers’ education level and “P<0.001”
after family income. “p=0.004” and “p<0.001” were added to the sentence. (page 8)

5. Page 8 Line 7 As the p-value for the covariates “dental caries” and “communication ability” is 0.001, pls change “…positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP (P<0.001) to “… positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP (P<0.001).
The sentence was changed to “positive impact on the OHRQoL in children with CP(p<0.001)." (page 8)

Discussion
1. Page 8 Line 3 Pls give the reference for the sentence: “…only few studies have assessed the OHRQoL of cerebral palsied children”.
The references for the sentence were given. (page 9)

2. Page 9 Line 8 Pls include the reference number for the reference Baens-Ferrer et al.
The reference number was added. (page 9)

3. Page 10 Line 10 Pls provide the reference for the sentence: “…as caregivers have reported quality of life concerns which could be attributed to their child’s oral health”.
The reference for the sentence was included. (page 10)

4. Page 10 Line 23 Pls replace “De Camargo e Antune” with “De Camargo and Antune”.
The word “e” was changed to “and”

5. Page 11 Line 3 It is not clear what this sentence means: “In addition the time consumed to answer the questionnaires (two in total) was such that the sample size is small”. Pls clarify.
The sentence was removed.

Table
Table 1
1. Why is the “observed range” for “Total P-CPQ and FIS including global ratings domain” jan/69? The words “jan/69” were change to 0-24.

2. Should Mean (SD) be Total Score for the Domain? Yes, it is the mean total score for each domain.

References
Pls check the reference number. There are two reference 1. The references were checked.

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'