Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 April 2011

Reviewer: Cynthia K Y Yiu

Reviewer’s report:

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 pls 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)”.

2. The effect of severity of the type of CP on functional limitations is significant with p=0.011, therefore pls 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)”.

3. As the p-value for the covariates “dental caries” and “communication ability” is 0.001, pls 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).

Background

Page 3 Line 12 Pls see the following recently published paper which evaluated the oral health-related quality of life of preschool children with cerebral palsy

Methods

Sampling and procedure

1. Pls include details of the ethical board.
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?

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?

Data collection
Line 12 Pls replace “exam” with “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.

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

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?

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)”.

3. Page 7 Line 30 Pls add “impact score” after “… negative impact on the family”.

4. Page 8 Line 1 Pls add “P=0.004” after fathers’ education level and “P<0.001” after family income.

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).

Discussion
1. Page 8 Line 3 Pls give the reference for the sentence: “…only few studies have assessed the OHRQoL of cerebral palsied children”.

2. Page 9 Line 8 Pls include the reference number for the reference Baens-Ferrer et al.

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”.

4. Page 10 Line 23 Pls replace “De Camargo e Antune” with “De Camargo and Antune”.

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.

Table
Table 1

1. Why is the “observed range” for “Total P-CPQ and FIS including global ratings domain” jan/69?
2. Should Mean (SD) be Total Score for the Domain?

References
Pls check the reference number. There are two reference 1.

**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'