Author's response to reviews

Title: Prediction of width of un-erupted incisors, canines and premolars in a Ugandan population: a cross sectional study

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Version: 2 Date: 14 March 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the

Biomed central Editorial Team

Re: Covering letter for the revised manuscript MS: 2010262245493287
Prediction of width of un-erupted incisors, canines and premolars in a Ugandan population: a cross sectional study
William Buwembo WB, Annet Kutesa AK, Louis Muwazi LM and Charles Mugisha Rwenonyi CMR

Please find below a point by point response to the reviewers comments. The responses are in track changes in blue.

Reviewer's report
Title: Prediction of width of un-erupted incisors, canines and premolars in a Ugandan population: a cross sectional study
Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2011
Reviewer: Efisio Defraia

Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions
Was the distribution of data assessed before performing t-test? If data are not distributed according to Gauss curve anon parametric test should be performed. The data was normally distributed and this is now commented on in the manuscript in the section of data analysis page 6 line 2.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests: declare that I have no competing interests

Reviewer's report
Title: Prediction of width of un-erupted incisors, canines and premolars in a Ugandan population: a cross sectional study
Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2011
Reviewer: andrea marinelli

Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. In the paragraph “reliability error”, coefficients of reliability for all the variables as suggested by Houston should be provided
(Houston WJ. The analysis of errors in orthodontic measurements. Am J Orthod.
These are now provided on page 5 under the section reliability test and referenced, reference number 28.

2. What was the rationale for excluding subjects with spaced or crowded teeth? The mesiodistal width of the tooth was obtained by measuring the greatest distance between contact points on proximal surfaces, this would be difficult in the spaced and crowded dentition. It is now commented on, on page 4 under section on study population line 7. It is also referenced, reference 11 and 27.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. “decent” should be changed in “descent” in the third line. This has been done on page 4 under section of study population line 3.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published. We have made some corrections in the conclusion section in the abstract to help improve the flow and clarity. We have done this in other sections as outlined below.

In the introduction page 3 line 4 changed the word ‘patient’ to ‘patients’. In line 9 shown continuity between reference 24 to 26, line 10 crossed out ‘has been done’ and changed the word ‘width’ to ‘widths’ also done the same in line 10 and line 12.

On page 3 under the section of study areas, we have added the word schools in line 3.

On page 4 under the section of ethical issues we have added the words ‘to carry out the study’ line 1, ‘parents/guardians and the’ line 3, the ‘children assented to the study’ instead of consented and added reference number 28 in the reference section.

In the discussion page 7 line 4 we added the words ‘for the first time’, crossed out the repetition ‘in this Ugandan population’ in line 4 page 8 and improved on the reference numbers that changed in line 7 from 28 to 30, 12 to 31, line 8 from 21 to 32 and 30 to 27 and line 13 change to 18-27 and 30-31.

Page 9 in the last paragraph’ in the discussion we added ‘However, our’ instead of ‘This’, Line 6 ‘On the other hand’ instead of ‘However’ and line 11 added ‘generally’.

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Reviewer’s report
Title: Prediction of width of un-erupted incisors, canines and premolars in a Ugandan population: a cross sectional study
Version: 1 Date: 2 February 2011
Reviewer: Stephen F Rosenstiel
Reviewer’s report:
This analysis of tooth widths in a Ugandan population is of interest to researchers and clinicians and the report is easy to follow, but requires editing to remove
typographical errors.

**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. We have made some clarifications already mentioned in the comments above

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests

We have also addressed the editorial advice and added a section on competing interests on page 10 between the conclusion and authors contributions.

**Yours faithfully**

Buwembo William

**Corresponding author**