Reviewer's report

Title: Profiling the clinical presentation of diagnostic characteristics of symptomatic TMD patients

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2012

Reviewer: Rahena Akhter

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. In materials and methods: “Two trained dentists---” did they calibrate? If so what was the inter examiner correlation?
2. How did pain quality assess? Did the authors use any questionnaire? If so please mention.
3. “Symptoms experienced since the onset of pain” Was there any time frame like last 2, 3 or 6 month or year---
4. Most important: there are several tools, validated questionnaires to classify a worldwide used IHS classification to differentiate headache. Using a single question as diagnosis makes it very unreliable.
5. How the characteristics of sleep were diagnosed?
6. To establish clinical diagnosis- did only one examiner perform all physical exam? If so need to state intra examiner correlation.

In discussion:

7. Paragraph 1, “symptom coverage”- describe what is meant by symptom coverage.
8. Paragraph 2 “This could occur------a chronic condition quite easily” needs some references to support this statement.
9. In discussion: Paragraph 4 “event 0may--”-could not understand
10. Emotional factors has a strong role in muscle dysfunctions and bruxism, did the authors evaluated in their study. If not why-please discuss.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'