Reviewer’s report

Title: Reasons for dental care under general anaesthesia in a Public Dental Service and treatments provided

Version: 1 Date: 8 September 2012

Reviewer: Ivor G Chestnutt

Reviewer’s report:

General Comments
This article reports on the 349 individuals who underwent a Dental General Anaesthetic (DGA) in the Public Dental Service in the city of Helsinki in 2010. The article comprises mainly an observational report on the characteristics of those undergoing (DGA). A clear aim is stated which has largely been achieved. The manuscript is well written and easy to understand. The data and results however are what would have been expected from such a service and as written are likely to be of interest largely to a local audience. Specific Comments are below.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The Title of the article should be amended to reflect the location and timing of the study. I suggest, “A report of the dental care and treatments provided under general anaesthesia in the Helsinki Public Dental Service in 2010”.
2. Confidence Intervals for the Odds Ratios should be included in the abstract.
3. ASA should be spelled in full for those unfamiliar with this grading system.
4. It is assumed that immigration status was included as a measure of cultural / socioeconomic status. A limited discussion of the choice of this parameter as opposed to a universal measure of socioeconomic status should be included in the discussion.
5. Table 2 – there are two problems with the statistical analysis in this Table.
   a. In many of the cells (particularly in relation to the last two reasons) N<5 in the majority of cells. This contravenes the assumptions of a Chi square test.
   b. The authors have undertaken multiple statistical (Chi-square) tests. No corrective factor has been applied to the resulting p values.
6. Point 5b also applied to Tables 3 thro 5. A Bonferroi or similar correction should be applied to the p values reported.
7. Figure 1 requires labels on the vertical and horizontal axis.
8. The discussion would benefit from a discussion of findings of similar studies in other countries to help increase the relevance of the findings and contextualise to a wider audience.

Typographical errors
9. Page 4 3rd line from bottom “in the Helsinki” - delete “the”
10. Page 11 2nd para line 1 – “… non-cooperation in children is the dental fear” – delete “the”

**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