Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of gingival bleeding and gingival enlargement on Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) of subjects under fixed orthodontic treatment: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2012

Reviewer: Kerstin Öhrn

Reviewer’s report:

I have reviewed the article and have the following comments.

My major concerns are:

1. The title includes the word impact, which also is mentioned in the conclusion. However, this is a cross-sectional study and it is only association that is assessed, not impact. To use the word impact an experimental study is necessary. In addition, gingival bleeding is mentioned in the title and it is reported that gingival bleeding was assessed using a condensed version of Löe & Silness index, but this is not used in any analyses.

2. In the sample there is no information on the reasons for the non-response.

3. In the description of the assessment there is no information on how the extent of encroachment was assessed only that it was a 4 graded scale.

4. There is neither any descriptive statistics of the combined hyperplasia score.

5. There are no information on the OHIP-14 scores in the method section.

6. The result section has a main focus on sociodemographic variables, which is not the aim of the study. The focus should be on gingival hyperplasia and bleeding according to the aim.

7. However, it looks from the result as if the problem is more of aesthetic nature than a health issue and from that point of view the focus could be on appearance and not periodontal condition as such, then the aim needs to be altered.

8. Among the sociodemographic variables there is an analysis of the association between age and OHIP-scores and 52% had an education less than 11 years and if Brasil do not differ substantially from other countries, people who are 14 years can not have an education more than 11 years.

My minor comments are:

1. In the abstract the result in regard to gingival enlargement should be presented before the result on sociodemographic variables (see comments on focus above).

2. It is unclear what the sentence “patient diagnosed with oral pathological conditions were advised to seek consultation and treatment” is about (method section).

3. Please make sure that all abbreviations for example FOT are explained.
4. The statement "regarding factors associated with the impact of oral conditions on quality of life, the most frequently reported variables in the literature were cariss och socioeconomic status" need a reference

5. As table 4 is mentioned first in the text, the table should be table 1

**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