Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and factors leading to dental caries among pre-school children of Karachi, Pakistan: A cross-sectional study

Authors:

Narendar Dawani (narendarz@yahoo.com)
Nighat Nisar (nisarnighat@hotmail.com)
Nazeer Khan (n.khan@duhs.edu.pk)
Shahbano Syed (shahbanosyed@hotmail.com)
Navara Khan (drnavarakhan@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 28 April 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
**Reviewer’s Response Sheet**

**Response to Reviewer 1 – Donald Chi:**

1. The Univariate and Multivariate regression analysis has been employed and the results of factors related to caries have been incorporated through values of adjusted odds ratio and adjusted 95% confidence interval.
2. The criteria for severity of dental caries has been referenced from an article: Hallett K.B and O’Rourke P.K. Dental caries experience of pre-school children from the north Brisbane region. Aust Dent J. 2002; 47: 331-338. They had categorized severity based on dmft scores and I have followed the same criteria based on dmft scores.
3. The +ve and –ve headings in table 4 and all other confusing statements from the article as well as result tables have been clarified for better understanding.
4. Regarding the statement: “dental caries is not a life-threatening condition”. I have revised it and this statement is also referenced.
5. Manjan denotes a local name of dentifrice and I have edited it in the article.

**Reviewer Response 2 – Toshiyuki Saito**

1. The sampling methodology has been refined for better understanding.
2. The percentage of preschool children in Pakistan as well as the percentage attending kindergartens has been mentioned in the article.
3. The fluoridation aspect of toothpaste and toothpowder was not the objective and it was just investigated to assess if the children use a toothpaste or toothpowder.
4. All the tables have been refined for better understanding.
5. The right side column of table 1 contains the mean and standard deviation values of the dmft results under study.
6. Page numbers have been added.
7. The minor changes advised have all been edited and refined.

**Review Response 3 - Santosh Kumar Dr Tadakamadla**

1. The title and objectives have been modified and the target area of study has been mentioned in the title as recommended.
2. The sampling procedure has been refined for better understanding.
3. The Univariate and Multivariate regression analysis has been employed and the results of factors related to caries have been incorporated through values of adjusted odds ratio and adjusted 95% confidence interval.
4. Conclusion has been modified and results of factors related to dental caries have been mentioned in the conclusion.
5. Introduction:
   a. Local recent articles on caries among preschool children have been incorporated in the introduction section however; there is no data on preschool children of Saddar town region.
   b. The objectives have been modified and regression analysis has been carried out for determining association between caries and related factors.

6. Methods
   a. Inclusion and exclusion criteria have been provided and certainly 1000 children were included in the study as ample children were available for inclusion in study.
   b. The sampling methodology has been refined for better understanding.
   c. The inter-examiner reproducibility has been assessed between the chief investigator and another examiner in the start of the research and it has been mentioned in the methodology.
   d. Both, clinical examination and interview was done by the chief examiner himself.
   e. All the statistical tests utilized have been mentioned.
   f. Univariate and multivariate analysis has been performed for determining relationship.

7. Results
   a. The severity of dental caries has been refined and synchronized in text and tables. Chalia is sort of betel nut used in our city and denotes betel nut.
   b. The “n” in the results have been omitted.
   c. Betel nut consumption has been mentioned in the tables.
   d. The timing of brushing was assessed generally to determine if it has any association with caries experience.

8. Discussion
   a. I have tried to incorporate some recent article for discussion.
   b. Sweetened milk has been mentioned in the text as well as tables.

9. Conclusion
   a. Conclusion has been edited for better representation of objectives.
   b. Recommendations need to be separately mentioned as it highlights their importance.