Reviewer's report

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

**Version: 2 Date:** 17 May 2012

**Reviewer:** santosh kumar tadakamadla

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions

Introduction

As suggested in my earlier review, please use the term “risk factor” cautiously in a cross-sectional study of this kind. “Risk factor: an environmental, behavioral, or biologic factor confirmed by temporal sequence, usually in longitudinal studies, which if present directly increases the probability of a disease occurring, and if absent or removed reduces the probability. Risk factors are part of the causal chain, or expose the host to the causal chain. Once disease occurs, removal of a risk factor may not result in a cure.”

Methods

1. It’s necessary to include in methodology about the method adapted to assess oral hygiene status, bleeding and calculus as the whole methodology is attributed to discussion of dental caries

2. Each factor that has been interviewed has to be explained in the methods explicitly. Moreover, it has been stated in the methods that “interview of every child for assessment of factors leading to tooth decay” but how can one be sure that these factors lead to dental caries before the initiation of the study. Please be informed that in order to find “factors leading to dental caries”, you need to frame a longitudinal study with possible factors as the exposure and dental caries as the outcome.

Results

1. Table have to be formatted according to the journal guidelines

2. How were the eating habits evaluated, for eg., when was a child considered as consuming sweet juices and syrup? (when he has consumed it once in his lifetime, once a week, once a day), there should be some definition for this and this has to be made clear in the methods

Conclusions

The last sentence in the conclusion has to be reframed in order to sound meaningful

I am still unconvinced about the recommendations of the present study; they are extensive but are not extrapolated from the present study findings. Moreover, the recommendations provided here are on a national scale. However, the authors
can submit their recommendations as short communication or letter to the editor.

**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

**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