Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of preventive oral health behaviour among senior dental students in Nigeria

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Reviewer: Joyce Rose Masalu

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Determinants of preventive oral health behavior among senior dental students in Nigeria.
By Morenike Fulayan

Generally:
Well written minor survey however the authors should pay attention to the suggested Minor Essential Revisions as itemized below

Abstract:
The conclusion does not answer the research objective; i.e. To study oral health behavior of senior dental students in Nigeria in relation to their, gender, age, knowledge of preventive care, and attitudes towards preventive dentistry

Introduction
The literature review does not explicitly address how age and gender vary with the targeted oral health behaviors. The behaviors in question have not been well covered by literature to reveal what is known and what is unknown in specific details for each behavior in question

Methodology & Results
1. What aspects of the questionnaire was adjusted in context of the practice of dentistry in Nigeria (Paragraph 1 last sentence)
2. How were validity and reliability issues handled?
3. Although all students were eligible, what was the desired sample size?
4. Since most measurements were done on ordinal scale and corresponding summative indices yielded continuous variables, why were the variables dichotomized?
5. What was the prevalence of each outcome variable and how suitable is logistic regression in estimation of ORs? If the prevalence is high the authors may have overestimated the ORs and their corresponding CIs. This may lead to reporting false associations.
6. Knowledge is not supposed to be measured on a Likert scale
7. Why was the median chosen to be the cut-off point?
8. I wonder why the authors would expect their attitude measures (on cost, prestige, usefulness, effective, essential, etc.) will predict the described target
behavior (tooth brushing, sugary snacks, regular use of fluoride, use of dental floss, and self care). Attitude is linked to behavior only if there compatibility. Could the authors explain what assumptions were made to establish this link in their study? Besides results for attitude are not explicitly presented as they did for knowledge

9. Paragraph 6 on logistic regression; I don’t think it adds much to indicate several folds increase if the increase is not significant

Discussion
1. I wonder why the discussion starts with cross-cultural issues while the study did not touch anything about this aspect. The curriculum also is given prominence in the beginning of the discussion while the study objectives did not deal with curriculum. The traditional versus current preventive measures could be elaborated to enlighten your readers on what is currently on the cutting edge

2. Page 2 the second sentence…..It is clear there is a gap in the oral health preventive practice ……..what evidence do we have on this gap? At least the write-up did not provide background information on what is in the curriculum. The sentence…such change in which attitude and behavior amongst dental students has been observed in Australia. What change? There is no clear flow with the preceding sentences and the subsequent statements

3. Page 3 paragraph 1 statement no 2 is not correct if the ORs in table 5 are correct

4. Why was Mongolia used all-through to benchmark behaviors of Nigerian students?

5. Some behaviors were not discussed, e.g. smoking- any reason why?

Conclusion:
Line 4 this may be a proof….does not seem to be part of the conclusion for this small convenient survey

Author’s contribution:
The list of contributors is long but their respective contributions are not indicated

References
1. Dominated by old references
2. Is it possible to include work that was done within the region?

Tables
Change the first table 5 to table 6

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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