Reviewer's report

Title: UK population norms for the modified dental anxiety scale with percentile calculator: Adult Dental Health Survey 2009 results

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Tim T Newton

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes the secondary analysis of data from the United Kingdom Adult Dental Health Survey. The data quality is excellent. The rationale for the study is well described and clear. The analysis has been methodically and accurately applied.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes - Assessment is a cornerstone of patient management and it is essential that clinicians are given accurate and meaningful data on which to plan the management of patients’ anxiety.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
   Very much so.

Major compulsory revisions
None
Minor Essential Revisions
None
Discretionary revisions
Overall this is beautifully written and provides a clear construction of its argument. However I have two very minor points.

1. In the first line of the discussion (p15) the authors state "The psychometric data appear to show that the MDAS is a reliable unidimensional scale." Would it be more accurate to say "internally consistent" rather than "reliable"?

2. I was unclear why there are quotation marks in the first paragraph of the Methods section (p7)

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests