Reviewer's report

Title: Tobacco use and caries risk among adolescents - a longitudinal study

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2013

Reviewer: Elsa Karina Delgado

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper which deserves to be published. The use of longitudinal data and a large sample makes it even better. However, there are a few issues that need to be addressed.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Introduction paragraph 1
• Authors stated several studies world-wide have denominates tobacco as a risk factor for dental caries; however, only one reference is cited which is not even a review paper.
• Also mentioned increased caries rates in smoking young adults; the studies cited are for periodontal patients, that’s how it should be presented.

Methods-Study population, paragraph 2
• Four year cohorts, observed in periods: 2006-09, 2007-12? (should it be 2007-10?), 2008-11 and 2009-12.

Discussion, paragraph 1
• The main finding ... self-reported use of tobacco ...

Discussion, paragraph 4
• The description of the methodology must be within Methods, please move the sentence referring to Bitewing radiographs to that section.
• Please expand the point given about the possible explanations for your results.

MAYOR REVISIONS

Methods
• There is no description of the methodology for caries assessment.

Methods-Statistical methods, paragraph 1
• Why did the authors summarise DMFS by SiC?
• Why did the baseline DMFS was stratified? What is the reference for the cut-off points used?
• Please provide a reference (or a reason) for using Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test instead of regression analysis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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