Reviewer’s report

Title: The traditional practice of canine bud removal in the offspring of Ethiopian immigrants.

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Reviewer: Haroula Kolets-Kounari

Reviewer’s report:

In this cross-sectional study - and NOT a retrospective one as it is written in the Methods section – the authors aimed to compare the prevalence of missing primary canines in Israeli offspring of immigrants from Ethiopia to that of Israeli children from a similarly low socioeconomic class.

I believe the authors have been made a major methodological error. The canine bud removal is a traditional practice in Israeli communities of Ethiopian immigrants but not in other Israeli communities. Since the congenital absence of primary canines is extremely rare, there is not a subject to be compared between the two communities. The only common parameter that the two communities share is the low socioeconomic level which has nothing to do with the above mentioned practice.

Therefore, I think that this article cannot be published in its current structure. However, the authors could use their findings, as far as the offspring of Israeli Ethiopian immigrants are concerned only, for public oral health purposes in order to urge public authorities to take measures to end this practice.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.