Author's response to reviews

Title: Perception of toothache in adults from state capitals and interior cities within the Brazilian geographic regions

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To The BMC Oral Health

Production Editors: Prof. Christopher Foote

We are resubmitting to “BMC Oral Health”, the article “Perception of Toothache in Adults from State Capitals and Interior Cities within Brazilian Geographic Regions”.

Thanks for referee´s reporting that describe the work as “An article of importance in its field”.

The manuscript has been corrected according to the referees´ information. We appreciate the opportunity and the valuable suggestions given to this work. The manuscript was revised by the professional translator and the certificate is attached to this document. Below are the answers to the revisors. We are also sending a copy of the corrected article with the suggested changes highlighted in red and written English changes highlighted in blue. We remain at your disposal for any clarification that may be necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Maylu B. Hafner Juliana Zanatta
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Corrections on the suggestions and reflections of **REVISOR 1: Marc W Heft**

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

Lack of information about the SES characteristics of the locales greatly lessen the value of the data report -- and the enthusiasm of the Reviewer. Are these data not available? The authors responded to the previous review with "This work will serve as basis for introduction and comparison of demographic and SES data in later study." Will this future study be a further analysis of the data from this sample or a new study with a new study sample?

These comparisons requested by the reviewer are very important and were added to this paper. There are described throughout the manuscript.

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published.

The article was resubmitted to a translator and its certification is attached below.

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

The study went through new data analysis as requested.

Corrections on the suggestions and reflections of **REVISOR 2: Leonard Crocombe**

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors have answered my questions from the previous review, though in a descriptive paper such as this, I would expect some sociodemographic variables to be included in the analysis.

We agree that sociodemographic data and analysis are very important, so they were added.

There are still quite a few mistakes with the English which need to be rectified before the paper can be published:

- In the abstract aim, it is not clear in what area of body where the reported the pain comes from.

In the abstract section has been added the word “oral” to indicate that pain refers to oral pain (Page 03).
- In the results section of the abstract the word "notheast" should be "northeast."
  
  This word has been corrected (Page 08).

- The first sentence in the introduction ends with ",... or described in terms of such lesion", which doesn't make sense.
  
  This sentence was removed (Page 05).

- In the thirth paragraph of the introduction, a different term for "people relations" needs to be found.
  
  This term was substituted by “interpersonal relationships” (Page 05).

- In the fourth paragraph of the introduction, the second sentence which ends with "... since the dentist's appointment does not occur regularly" needs to be re-worded.
  
  This paragraph was removed.

- In the final sentence in the second paragraph of the methods, the phase "Examiners make data collection ..." needs attention.
  
  This paragraph was rewritten for a better understanding (Page 06).

- In the second paragraph of the results section, the word "reaches" should be "reached". Results should always be described in the past tense.
  
  This verb has been corrected (Page 08).

- In the results section where table 1 is described, the number of places after the decimal point varies from two to four. Please be consistent. I suggest that with the number of respondents that two numbers after the decimal point is enough.
  
  We agree that two numbers after the decimal point is enough (Table 01 and 03).

- Similarly, p=0.0045 etc. should simply be p<0.01 because the survey doesn't get down to that level of accuracy.

  To simplify, the data p=0.0045 has been replaced by p<0.01. (Table 01 and 03)

- In the second paragraph of the discussion, the first sentence has the word "shows" and it should be "show". The second sentence has two regions behaving. I suggest that isn't what you mean.
  
  We agree and those mistakes were corrected (Page 10).

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

The article was resubmitted to a translator and its certification is attached.

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
We appreciate the opportunity and remain at your disposal for any necessary clarification.

Faithfully yours,

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Campinas, 17 May, 2013.

To BMC Oral Health

CERTIFICATE OF LANGUAGE REVIEW

We hereby certify that the article "Perception of toothache in adults from state capitals and interior cities within Brazilian geographic regions" has been reviewed by language specialists. Thus, we certify the quality of the writing of the manuscript.

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