Author’s response to reviews

Title: Periodontal conditions in patients with Marfan syndrome - a multicenter case control study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Referee #1 (Comments to the Author):

None

Referee #2 (Comments to the Author):

1) Comment:
The second paragraph of the Background section could be shortened, since the general part about periodontitis should be known by the readers of BMC Oral Health.

Answer:
Thank you for this comment. We have shortened the general part about periodontitis in the background section (p.3, line 96 ff.).

2) Comment:
Table 1 can be deleted.

Answer:
We deleted table 1.

Referee #3 (Comments to the Author):

1) Comment:
What were the inclusion criteria for the control group in terms of periodontal condition?

Answer:
Patients of the control group were randomized recruited out of the pool of patients of the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Periodontology and Preventive Dentistry. Marfan and control group were matched for smoking habits, gender and age. Periodontal conditions were not considered in recruitment of patients for the control group.

2) Comment:
Periodontal examination does not include an index for detecting plaque accumulation. Also in the methods section the timing of the periodontal screening is not mentioned.

Answer:
Aim of the present study was to evaluate if patients with Marfan syndrome reveal more periodontal damage and inflammation signs. For discussing the results we agree with the referee that an index for detecting plaque accumulation would be helpful. However, we have not detected plaque accumulation because it was not essentially for answering the main questions.
We added the time of periodontal investigation in the methods section (p.4, line 130 ff.).

3) Comment:
The questionnaire results were mentioned very briefly in the manuscript. Especially the TMJ disorders... I’d strongly recommend that the authors should display the results of the questionnaire with an additional table.

Answer:
Thank you for this comment. We mentioned the results of the questionnaire briefly because we want to focus on periodontal conditions in this paper. In addition, the authors representing the Department of Orthodontics conducted a comprehensive investigation of the TMJ and plan to publish the results in another publication. To avoid redundancies we decided to abstain from an additional graph or table.

4) Comment:
DMF-T and DMF-S values cannot be seen throughout the text. I’d strongly recommend that the authors would create a table or a graph to display these findings.
Answer:
Although the authors think that a table or graph do not illustrate additional information we deleted the DMF-T and DMF-S values in the text and display the findings in an additional table (p. 12).

5) Comment:
Table 1 includes the definitions of the periodontal screening methods. I’d recommend that the authors would consider giving this information in the text.

Answer:
According to the comment of referee 2 we decided to delete the table 1. We agree with referee 2 that the readers of the BMC Oral Health know the assessed periodontal parameters.

6) Comment:
In the conclusion section….I’d recommend the authors would limit their conclusion in terms of this fact.

Answer:
Because of the incipiently mentioned “Based on our data....” the authors think that we have limited our conclusion to the cohort we have investigated in the present study. But we added “Based on our data” also in the conclusion of the abstract (p.2, line 68).

7) Comment:
In the conclusion section….If the authors would like to tie their results to the fact that Marfan’s syndrome patients are more likely to develop endocarditis, it would be necessary to supply some detailed data from this group of patients are found to be in a greater risk for developing endocarditis. An alternative conclusion should be also be considered....

Answer:
Thank you for this comment. We add in the discussion section a corresponding reference and clarified our statement (p.7, line 242 ff. and p.8, line 260 ff.).