Reviewer's report

Title: Relationships between self-rated oral health, subjective symptoms, oral health behavior and clinical conditions in Japanese university students: A cross-sectional survey at Okayama University

Version: 2 Date: 25 September 2013

Reviewer: Jonathan Broadbent

Reviewer's report:

I accept the authors amendments.

My only remaining comments are -

some studies have found that the D and M components of the DMF index can relate to self-rated oral health, while the F component does not necessarily affect it. This is a matter of 'untreated decay' (D), 'tooth loss' (M), and 'treated decay (F). I believe this is at least worth a comment, or a further analysis to investigate this.

Table 1 alignment is somewhat difficult to follow, due to irregular spacing between rows (however this is likely to be corrected as part of paper preparation).

In the final model, application of fluoride is listed as associated with oral health behaviours; however, this is not something which a person necessarily has control over. Application of fluoride is likely to be associated with dental attendance pattern.

Were measurements of TMD recorded as a part of the examination of participants, or was TMD only self-report? A comment needs to be made regarding the reliability of self-report measures of TMD vs examiner assessed measures of TMD (which may include patient interviews).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.