Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of characteristics of delivery and medical conditions during the first month of life with developmental defects of enamel

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Version: 5  Date: 21 September 2014

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Answers to the comments:

Editor's comment:

1. Please can you clarify why you have defined your study as retrospective. If your study does not fit the criteria for a retrospective study, you may be asked to remove this definition from your methods.

Answer: In this study we assessed the relationship between characteristics at birth and during the first month of life in children with the enamel defects found in their teeth when they had reached school age. If we had followed the children from birth until the eruption of their permanent teeth, then the study would be a prospective one. However, we recruited and examined the children when their teeth had erupted, and then we collected information about conditions at birth and during the first month of life retrospectively. Therefore, we feel the study is a retrospective one.

2. We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service. For authors who wish to have the language in their manuscript edited by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise, BioMed Central recommends Edanz (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1). BioMed Central has negotiated a 10% discount to the fee charged to BioMed Central authors by Edanz. Use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of acceptance for publication. For more information, see our FAQ on language editing services at http://www.biomedcentral.com/authors/authorfaq/editing.

Answer: The manuscript was edited by Karen Shashok (AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean, http://www.authoraidem.org), an experienced professional science-technical-medical editor whose first language is English. Her certificate will be submitted together with this version of the manuscript.