Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence and presentation pattern of developmental dental hard-tissue anomalies in children from a suburban population in Nigeria

Version: 5 Date: 15 August 2014

Reviewer: Saurabh K Gupta

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

• Please reform the sentence “Of the children with anomalies, 29.1% were male, 29.8% were female” to make it more clearer as the statement at present says that 29.1% were males and 29.8% were females, then what were rest 41.1%.

• As the authors have categorized the socioeconomic status of the children in 3 categories and the children with anomaly in it are 32.6%, 23.5% and 32.5%, the remaining 11.4% is unaccounted for.

• The “Notch shaped incisor: has been defined as “A condition of the teeth characteristic of congenital syphilis” and maternal syphilis as such has been there given in the exclusion criteria. Does this mean that the above mentioned anomaly was present in the children without having exposure to maternal syphilis in-utero, please clarify this.

• The sample has been taken from children aged between 4 months to 12 years. It is well known that in most of the children the milk tooth erupts by the age of 6 months and therefore the presence of deciduous teeth at 4 months should be considered as early eruption.

• In the study design the authors have mentioned that their study is based on clinical examination and have not used radiograph and the age covered under consideration is between 4 months to 12 years. In the discussion part, the authors have stated “Our study, however, had a few limitations. First, the participants’ age range was four months to 12 years, so the third molars had not erupted”, in fact even at the maximum age of 12 years, the permanent canines, premolars and second molars are often unerupted, so prevalence of most of the anomalies, (like hypoplastic enamel, dens evaginatus, dena invaginatus microodontic macrodontia, hypodontia, transposition ect.) which are considered here in the manuscript are not their actual prevalence in permanent teeth of the children in that area.

• The study depicts the developmental dental deciduous hard tissue anomalies and not truly reflects the developmental dental permanent hard tissue anomalies.

Minor Essential Revisions

• Please check the spelling for “Gemination”, it has been spelt as “Germination” in the whole manuscript.
These points should be cleared before the articles can be considered for acceptance.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.