Reviewer's report

Title: Association between the longest job and oral health: Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study project cross-sectional study

Version: 2
Date: 28 August 2014

Reviewer: Shiho Kino

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. Background: Page 4: Line 12: It should be "positions" rather than "position".

2. Methods: Page 5: Line 18: The number of municipalities is "31" here although you say "30" in other parts.

3. Results: Page 9: 1st paragraph: You need to put "the" in the front of "lowest" and "highest".


5. Discussion: Page 10: Line 15: According to your manuscript, there is no category for "unskilled jobs". Did you mean the category of "unskilled and semiskilled workers" or all categories except "skilled workers"?

6. Discussion: Page 10: Line 19: It should be "classes" rather than "class".

Discretionary Revisions

1. Background: Page 4: Line 19-20: The statement should be based on evidence; therefore, a reference may be required.

2. Background: Page 4: Line 21: As poor oral health status even among children in the area is reported, there may be other causes of poor oral health rather than occupation.

3. Methods: Page 6: Line 21: I wonder the definition of "no occupation". The question asked was "for most of your working life" according to the text. Does it mean that housewives, who worked in a technical field for a year before marriages, were counted as "technical workers" rather than no occupation even if the non-working period was longer than working period because it was considered "in their working life". If so, does "no occupation" indicate people who never worked in their life? It might need to be clear.

4. Methods: Page 7: The population of study were people aged 65 or older; therefore, the household income may be pension for employed professional/technical workers. On the other hand, those with working for agriculture or forestry may still work as they do not have physical disabilities according to the text. This may generate the difference in time flexibility or
household income. You might need to consider these factors in the discussion part.

5. Results: Page 9: Line 19-22: How was the density associated with oral health and behaviour? e.g. positively or negatively etc.

6. Discussion: Page 11: Line 1: How was it associated? e.g. higher income was associated with more use of dentures.

7. Discussion: Page 11: 2nd paragraph: I could not find the results about the relationship between oral health status and behaviours. (In the conclusions: Page 12: Line 25 as well)

8. Discussion: Page 11: Line 14: the word of "access" has some interpretations (e.g. physically or financially etc) ; therefore, "time flexibility" might be better in this context.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.