Reviewer's report

Title: Low birth weight, preterm birth or small-for-gestational-age are not associated with dental caries in young Japanese children

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2014

Reviewer: Sam Leary

Reviewer's report:

On the whole the authors have responded well to my comments. The only outstanding issues are:

Major compulsory revision (2) re statistical significance - instead of "tended to be", it would be more informative to write in terms of statistical evidence of an association (three occurrences in the Results).

Major compulsory revision (3) re the interaction hypothesis that was not pre-specified - I am happy with the first paragraph added to the Discussion, however I do not feel that the results should have been moved to the Discussion - my point was that the readers need more of a lead in to why the interaction was assessed (can be within the Results), and it needs to be clear that it was exploratory as the hypothesis was not pre-specified, also the term "significant" should be replaced.

Discretionary revision (7) re adding the Kay et al. paper - it would be useful to highlight that this paper considered birthweight as a continuous variable across the whole range in the paragraph added to the Discussion.

Discretionary revision (8) re removing gestational age from the SGA and LBW analysis - this needs to be clarified in the Statistical Analysis section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests