Reviewer's report

Title: Orthodontic therapy of handicapped children - treatment time and success: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: Andreas Hellak

Reviewer's report:

The authors analyse pre- and post-treatment orthodontic status of handicapped in comparison to non handicapped children. The title and the introduction of this retrospective research article lead easily to the question posed. Methods are described well and comprehensible, while discussion and conclusion are balanced and give the reader a good overview about the connections in the field. The authors also lay a focus on treatment time and number of appointments, which makes the paper very interesting on current issue, not only for science but also for practice. For a more scientific view a more detailed group subdivision might be helpful. With reference to the limits of available literature in this field the article contributes well to enlarge the data concerning this area of research.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. I would like to suggest the authors to enumerate which kinds of handicap / severity of disability the children are faced with to offer a transferable overview for practice. In addition it should be allocated the type of dysgnathia and used appliance.

This group subdivision could be advantageous for more overview. For a more differentiated approach a more accurate classification might be helpful.

2. To underline the quality of methods it would be helpful to allocate "moderate" and "considerable chair time" in a more detailed way, e.g. a table where the distribution to the groups mentioned above is explained.

Furthermore, it might be difficult to use the same treatment time for HC and NHC as a benchmark for "moderate" and "considerable chair time".

3. To understand the figures it would be helpful to insert tables with the different values, standard deviation and used statistical test.

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

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