Reviewer's report

Title: Longitudinal study of habits leading to malocclusion development in childhood

Version: 1  Date: 21 February 2014

Reviewer: Antonio Carlos Pereira

Reviewer's report:

1) This study was well conducted and has the distinction that it was conducted longitudinally, although the data are confirmatory, the longitudinal nature and quality of the manuscript could be considered.

2) Authors should give more attention to the differential of the article, e.g., longitudinal nature and follow-up home visits.

3) What this article contributes to the state of the art?

4) In the introduction section, a better explanation about pathways of causal factors in the conceptual models for malocclusion should be cited.

5) In methods, which period of time were the patients recruited?

6) Sample was probabilistic? Please inform how the sample was calculated.

7) The questionnaire was validated by whom?

8) Observers were calibrated?

9) Discussion was well elaborated but more details of why mothers offered bottles and pacifiers, and does not seek to prevent the habit of sucking for your children. So, what are the variables related to the environment, the family, the models of care, psychosocial factors involved in this process? I suggest seeking conceptual models.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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' below’.