Author's response to reviews

Title: Adult Dental Anxiety and its Relationship to Periodontal Status: The Assessment of 1203 Chinese Dental Patients

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

Thank you for giving us the chance to resubmit our manuscript (the primary manuscript number was MS: 5956032011418362). We resubmit the manuscript after making the suggested modifications, and we try our best to supplement and modify it according to the reviewers’ comments, and make the resubmitted manuscript worthy of publication. We do hope to have a chance to publish our manuscript in BMC oral health. The point-by-point responses are provided below, and the manuscript was revised. Please tell us, if there is anything we need to do for the manuscript.

Thank you very much for your attention and reconsideration.

Sincerely yours,

Xuan Dongying

Email: xuanxuan187@126.com
Details answers in response to reviewers' comments:

Reviewer: 1

Essential revisions

1. Use the term "dental fear" in all cases you used "dental anxiety". Dental anxiety is a historical but faulty expression /though it exists in the related literature and in the name of many related scales (i.e. DAS)/. Anxiety is a "fear without object". Dental "anxiety" is fear because it has an object, the dental treatment.

---- Answers: Thank you for the helpful suggestion. The term “dental anxiety” has been replaced by “dental fear” throughout the revised manuscript.

2. Specify more concretely in "methods" which nonparametric test was used.

---- Answers: Thanks! In the present study, the data were analyzed by Mann-Whitney U test of the two independent samples.

T-test was used to analyze the differences of prevalence of dental fear between the patients with and without periodontal disease. Mann-Whitney U test was used to analyze the differences of the percentage of DAS evaluation between patients with and without periodontal disease. Linear regression was used to analyze the correlation between the patients’ general characteristics and dental fear.

The corresponding contents were supplemented in the “Methods” part of the revised manuscript (page7, line2-6).

3. Modify title to "possible" relationship to periodontal status and oral health behavior. "A preliminary study" or something like this. The methods how you measure periodontal status and oral health behavior is not suitable for making valid conclusion. But they are good enough to indicate possible correlations. Your title may express this, but not more.

---- Answers: Thank you for your constructive suggestion for the title, and the title of the revised manuscript has been modified as “Dental Fear and its possible
Relationship with Periodontal Status in Chinese Adults: A preliminary study.

4. Indicate gender distribution and age of the "periodontal disease" group
--- Answers: Thank you.

In “patients with periodontal disease” group, there were 131 (35.8%) male and 232 female (63.2%), and the average age was 42.4±14.6 (range from 18 to 78). The corresponding contents were supplemented in the “Results” part of the revised manuscript (page 7, line 15-16).

5. Shorten "discussion" strongly and discuss your result as a pilot in relation with periodontal status and oral behavior.
--- Answers: Thank you for your suggestion. The “Discussion” part was shortened and rearranged in the revised manuscript.

6. Rearrange your text in general. It is very difficult to understand your article especially for those who are not familiar with dental fear research.
--- Answers: Thanks for the careful review and very helpful suggestion. In order to let the manuscript be understood better, the revised manuscript was carefully rearranged.

Discretionary revision as follows
Your case number is rather high. You may also use multiway-ANOVA.
--- Answers: Thank you for your suggestion. The multiway-ANOVA was used to evaluate differences among factors. Meanwhile, the method can evaluate the interactions among two or three independent variables. And the interactive results would be too complicated for clinical trial if over three factors. There were 12 elements affecting the level of dental fear according to the current study. In this case, linear regression was suitable. Among several specific factors, multiway-ANOVA is preferable in further studies.
Reviewer: 2

Essential revisions

When talking about "Do your teeth bleeding when ..." and "brush teeth bleeding" the text should be more sophisticated (bleeding on brushing for example).

---- Answers: Thank you for your suggestion.

In the revised manuscript, “Do your teeth bleeding when you brush your teeth” has been replaced by “Do you have bleeding on brushing”, and “brush teeth bleeding” has been replaced by “bleeding on brushing”.

Discretionary revisions

In the next study it would be preferable to use BPE for evaluation of the periodontal conditions. It is also cheap and a quick method to make groups like perio or non-perio patients.

---- Answers: Thanks you for your suggestion. BPE (Basic Periodontal Examination) is preferable in the further study.