Author's response to reviews

Title: Pocket depth and bleeding on probing and their associations with dental, lifestyle, socioeconomic and blood variables: A cross-sectional, multicenter feasibility study of the German National Cohort

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

we submit the revised version of the original article to be considered for publication in the journal of BMC Oral Health. We have given a point-by-point response to the editorial concerns (please see below).

In summary we have added a further conclusion section. The study protocol was approved by the ethics committees and we have added a short explanation to clarify this more precisely. These changes in the paper and the comments sheet are highlighted in red.

Thank you for the possibility to resubmit to BMC Oral Health and considering our manuscript.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Heiko Zimmermann and Heiko Becher on behalf of the authors
Further editorial revisions:

- line 157-159, please can you clarify whether ethics committees at the two institutions you mentioned, approved your study protocol.

The joint overall sample finally incorporated n=311 Germans (120 males, 191 females). The ethical approvals of the study protocols were given (Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin (EA1/101/11), Medizinische Fakultät der Universität Heidelberg (S-108/2011), Medizinische Fakultät der Universität Greifswald (BB 12/11), Bayerische Landesärztekammer, München).

-According to our guidelines, please include a conclusion section, after your discussion section (http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcoralhealth/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-conclusions)

Conclusions

Increased BMI and smoking are associated with periodontitis risk. Dental variables found to be linked with pocket depth are caries lesions, number of bridges and crowns. Further associations of periodontitis with immunological parameters like leukocytes, HbA1c, MCV were found, however, a causal relation cannot be deduced from this study.