Author's response to reviews

Title: Ethnic variations in orthodontic treatment need in London schoolchildren

Authors:

Mhd Nour Alkhatib (m.alkhatib@eastman.ucl.ac.uk)
Raman Bedi (r.bedi@eastman.ucl.ac.uk)
Claire Foster (Claire.Foster@hf-pct.nhs.uk)
Pooja Jopanputra (pooja_k40@hotmail.com)
Sue Allan (Sue.Allan@hf-pct.nhs.uk)

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Dear editor,

Thank you for forwarding the reviewer's comments. We were pleased to see the very positive comments by the three reviewers. We have revised the manuscript with the minor modifications suggested by them.

Referee 1: P Gordon

Minor revision

Figure 3 is as you assumed, is a combination of figure 1 and 2 and just illustrating the difference in percentage of IOTN scores. We made that clearer in the text.

Referee 2: D O’Mullane

Minor revision

We inserted the reliability tests in the method (calibration results) and test re-test findings in the result. (page 5 and 6)

Referee 3: W Marcenes

Minor revisions
We deleted the statement where we addressed the dentist as a gold standard.

Agreement in table 4 is a descriptive agreement of frequencies within each treatment category therefore the three agreements should not add to 100. However the 75% figure is the percentage of overall cases agreed on within the sample, we deleted it to avoid confusion. Kappa scores can not be added to table 4 as they are based on different threshold level (AC 5) (2x2) as described in the method and results. We totally agree with the reviewer, tests of association were not carried out for agreement and figure 3 is a combination of figure 1 and 2 for illustrating the differences in AC scores between the dentist and the child. We clarified the limitation to kappa calculation in the conclusion section (page 10).