Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnic variations in orthodontic treatment need in London schoolchildren

Version: 1 Date: 15 July 2005

Reviewer: Peter Gordon

Reviewer's report:

General
1) The topic is interesting and the scope of the study is well defined.
2) The methods are appropriate and described in sufficient detail.
3) The data have been collected in a conventional way.
4) The study is well reported, with the exception of Figure 3.
5) The discussion and conclusions are well balanced.
6) The title and abstract accurately describe the study.
7) The paper is well written and free from typographical mistakes.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Figure 3 is difficult to understand. It is not well described in the text. The y axis is not labelled and it is not clear what the y axis represents. The graphic suggests that the x axis depicts a continuous variable, which in this case it does not. I am not sure what data Fig 3 is presenting. It may be just be a combination of Fig 1 and Fig 2.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.