Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnic variations in orthodontic treatment need in London schoolchildren

Version: Date: 31 August 2005

Reviewer: Denis O'Mullane

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General
This is an interesting and well written paper describing an important public health issue. The context to the question posed by the authors is well presented in the Introduction and the aims of the Study are clearly stated.

The Materials and Methods section are clearly presented and the techniques used to achieve the aims are appropriate. However, the authors should describe in more detail (eg. Kappa statistics) on the intra examiner reliability between the gold standard examiner and the examiner who conducted the clinical examinations. The initials of this person should be presented in the first paragraph of the Materials and Methods section. The authors should also describe in the Materials and Methods section how the sample size was calculated.

The Results section is clear and addresses the aims of the study.

The Discussion section assesses the results of this project with other similar projects from the UK and internationally the implications of the results are well documented.

Finally, the Conclusions address the aims of the study and are soundly based upon the results reported.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)