Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in pharyngeal microflora in oral breathers after palatal rapid expansion

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2005

Reviewer: Itzhak Brook

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting study. However there are several methodological issues that need to be addressed.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. There is no mention in the introduction about the role of anaerobic bacteria in the normal flora and their importance in oral infections. These organisms are the most numerous members of the oral flora and the important pathogens in dental infections and chronic ENT infections. This should be done as well as changing the title of the paper and Results and Tables that the study was of the aerobic and facultative flora.
2. The name of Branhemella has changed to Moraxella.
3. There is no description what quantitative methodology was employed to determine the density or quantity of isolates. This is essential because finding few colonies is not equal to finding higher numbers.

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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)
1. The introduction describing the pathogenesis of each organism is too long.
2. There are is a need for numerous grammatical and stylistic language corrections

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'