Reviewer's report


Version: 3 Date: 1 December 2005

Reviewer: Hannu Hausen

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have observed reasonably well the advice given to them during the first round. Need for editing still persists.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

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. There are still a lot of signs of negligence throughout the manuscript. Examples: (i) The spelling of the word "subgroup" is inconsistent. (ii) The use of period in the expression "et al." is inconsistent. (iii) The use of periods and spaces in the list of references is inconsistent. (iv) The order of references #6 and #7 is wrong. (v) The use of spaces next to equals signs is inconsistent.

2. Page 3, Paragraph 2, Row 7
Current wording: "caries status and"
Comment: Leave out. Only annual increment matters here.

3. Page 3, Paragraph 2, Row 9
Current wording: "low risk groups"
Comment: "groups" must be replaced by something that refers to individual people, such as "individuals".

4. Page 4, Paragraph 2, Rows 1-2
Current wording: "the low predictability of diagnosing the high-risk children".
Comment: This wording is inappropriate. High-risk children should be identified rather than diagnosed. Accuracy might be a better word than predictability to characterize the success of the attempts of identification.

5. Page 7, Paragraph 3, Row 1
Current wording: "Figures 1 to 4 also shows"
Comment: The verb must be in plural.

6. Page 8, Paragraph 2, Row 1
Current wording: "fundamentals arguments"
Comment: Replace "fundamentals" by "fundamental".

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)


**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests