Reviewer's report

Title: The vicious cycle of dental fear: exploring the interplay between oral health, service utilization and dental fear

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2006

Reviewer: Ilana Eli

Reviewer's report:

General
An interesting paper regarding the effects of dental fear on the utilization of dental services. The main advantage of the paper lies in the carefully planned method of sampling and large number of responders. As the authors correctly point out in the discussion, the main limitation of the study is in the fact that only one single question was used to assess dental fear. More questions about fear characteristics, possible sources of fear, coping abilities and maybe also some psychological characteristics of the responders could have supplied us with valuable information. It is a pity that these aspects were not included in this extensive study.

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

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)

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Figure 1 is redundant

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Figure 1 is redundant

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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