Reviewer's report

Title: Signs of oral dryness in relation to salivary flow rate, pH, buffering capacity and dry mouth complaints

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2007

Reviewer: Nobuhiro Hanada

Reviewer's report:

General:
This paper described the relationship between xerostomia and saliva.
1) Xerostomia can cause dental caries, because the protective effect of saliva is no longer present. It also leads to difficulty in speech, eating, halitosis.
However, this paper described no information concerning the various complications of xerostomia.
2) Xerostomia can be induced by several causes such as a side effect of drugs, autoimmune disorders, result of radiotherapy in the head and neck region.
However, author cannot evaluate the relationship between general health and oral health in people.
3) Definition of xerostomia is peculiar in this manuscript.

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

Table 3 is too complicated. It should be divided in half.

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

Table 1: first paragraph "Dry" should be convert to "Dry mucosa".

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Author uses two terms "xerostomia" and "oral dryness". Two terms should be integrated in the manuscript.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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