Reviewer's report

Title: The NTI-tss device for the therapy of bruxism, temporo-mandibular disorders, and headache: where do we stand? A qualitative systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 4 March 2008

Reviewer: Maria Beatriz B Gavião

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes. This work is a systematic review with the aim to appraise the currently available evidence regarding the efficacy and safety of the Nociceptive Trigeminal Inhibition Tension Suppression System: NTI-tss

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes. The searched electronic databases and key words were well described. The methods to classify the manuscript were reliable.

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes. However the Figure 2 can not be accepted. There are carious lesions on the upper right canine and upper left central incisor. They can be arrested, but it is not appropriate to show them. Moreover the tables are extended, needing to be summarized.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   No

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   No. Considering the material and methods and results of the selected articles, the second conclusion is inconsistent. EMG data have been shown a great variability in the literature, even before and after treatment intra- and inter-individuals. Despite the related article classifications, the authors could not state that: A reduction of the EMG activity of jaw closing muscles during jaw clenching or tooth grinding is desired, especially when such a decrease is associated with a clinically relevant reduction of temporo-mandibular pain, to indicate the NTI-tss splint.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   No

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
No
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes
9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

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

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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