Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral Health-related Cultural Beliefs for four racial/Ethnic Groups: Assessment of the Literature

Authors:

Yogita Butani (yogita.butani@ucsf.edu)
Jane A Weintraub (jane.weintraub@ucsf.edu)
Judith C Barker (barkerJ@dahsm.ucsf.edu)

Version: 4 Date: 22 April 2008

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The Editor:
BMC Oral Health

Thank you for the comments from the reviewers. The manuscript has been revised and the responses to reviewers’ specific comments have been listed below:

Responses to comments by Stella Kwan

1. The numbers in Figure 1 have been corrected.

Responses to comments by H. Asuman Kiyak

1. As the reviewer indicated, clinicians and researchers often do work with many different racial/ethnic groups. It would be beneficial to improve cultural competency if similarities and differences between groups could be clearly delineated. Sufficient detail is not found in the body of literature that we examined to provide this information, however, except in the few areas already mentioned – tooth loss and preventive care. We recommend that investigators more specifically address in future research and literature many of the excellent issues raised by providing such data for specific, racial/ethnic groups included in their studies. This recommendation has been added to the discussion section.

2. The TCM studies are reported from Hong Kong, Singapore and also reviewed in International Dental Journals. Work in other scholarly literatures not cited in Pubmed (and therefore not included in this review) has addressed the persistence and use of TCM by Chinese migrants in the US and Europe.

3. Unfortunately, the review is unbalanced with respect to Filipinos. One of our findings is the very small amount of information available. This gap is another reason why it is difficult to present similarities and differences across groups (comment #1).

4. The nationalities included and the study location of included studies has been added to all references in the text.
5. This project was initiated as a companion piece to a study that has recently been published [1] based on populations in California, the most populous and diverse state in that U.S. We would like to acknowledge that nationally, the largest and fastest growing racial ethnic groups are the Hispanics/Latinos and Chinese. Unfortunately, it is beyond the scope of this project to include all these groups.

6. We have changed this sentence to more precisely indicate the actual 27-year time period.

7. The sentence on median family income has been deleted for clarity.

8. We have changed the term “dental health” to the more inclusive “oral health” throughout the text.

9. Citations have been corrected.

References:


We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Yogita Butani BDS, MS Jane A Weintraub DDS, MPH Judith C Barker PhD