Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 23 October 2007

Reviewer: Stella YL Kwan

Reviewer’s report:

This is a good review paper, attempting to review evidence systematically. However, it contains little new information. It would also be useful to make clear some silent points.

On page 5, last paragraph: it states that the article focuses attention on the US; which is confusing as studies from other countries are included in the paper. It is important to acknowledge that the US can learn from experiences from other countries as well.

One of research sub-questions was to identify the methodology approaches and designs that had been used. It is unclear why quantitative epidemiologic studies were excluded.

In the Methods section, there is no information regarding methods of quality assessments, data synthesis, data analysis and statistics.

Please check numbers in the Results section. There should be 61 studies in total and 29 of which were about the Chinese.

From Figure 1, there are 19 African-american, 17 Chinese and 11 Hispanic studies that have not been read in full. What were the reasons for that?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.