Reviewer's report

Title: Presence of Helicobacter pylori in betel chewers and non betel chewers with and with out oral cancers

Version: 5 Date: 7 August 2009

Reviewer: Shan-Ling Hung

Reviewer's report:

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

1. Table 1 and Table 2 should be combined into one Table. In Table 2, “173” should be “104”.

2. The data in Table 5 were inconsistent with the data in Table 1. Twenty-four subjects were H. pylori positive in Table 1, whereas 25 subjects (8+17=25) were H. pylori positive in Table 5. Some statements about Table 5 and Table 6 should be added in the Results section. In addition, Table 5 and Table 6 should be combined into one Table.

3. There is no reference from year 2007 to 2009. The authors should update and improve the Introduction and Discussion with some recent related publications.

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

1. Page 6, line 28: change “5.7%” to “5.8%”

2. Page 9, in Table 3: change “Presence of H. pylori” to “Presence of serum IgG against H. pylori”

3. Page 9, in Table 3: change “20”, “4”, “84” and “65” to “20 (19.2%)”, “4 (5.8%)”, “84 (80.8%)” and “65 (94.2%)”, respectively

4. The authors should carefully check the grammar and spelling of this manuscript.

For example:

(1) Page 1, line 2: change “with out” to “without”

(2) Change “H pylori” and “H.pylori” to “H. pylori”

(3) Page 2, line 16: change “Seventy Three subjects” to “seventy three subjects”

(4) Page 4, line 2: change “Seventy” to “seventy”

(5) Page 4, line 15 from the bottom: change “patents” to “patients”

(6) Page 4, line 10 from the bottom: change “against H. pylori..” to “against H. pylori.”
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'