Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of oral self-care in patients with periodontitis: A pilot study in a dental school clinic in Japan

Authors:

Atsushi Saito (atsaito1@gmail.com)
Momomi Kikuchi (kikuchimomomi@tdc.ac.jp)
Fumie Ueshima (mirisarimama@gmail.com)
Shinya Matsumoto (matumotoshinya@tdc.ac.jp)
Hiroki Hayakawa (green-v-hiro@m6.gyo.ne.jp)
Hitomi Masuda (hmasuda716@yahoo.co.jp)
Takemi Makiishi (makiishi@tdc.ac.jp)

Version: 3 Date: 18 August 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of oral self-care in patients with periodontitis: A pilot study in a dental school clinic in Japan

Authors:
Atsushi Saito (atsaito@tdc.ac.jp)
Momomi Kikuchi (kikuchimomomi@tdc.ac.jp)
Fumie Ueshima (mirisarimama@gmail.com)
Shinya Matsumoto (matumotoshinya@tdc.ac.jp)
Hiroki Hayakawa (green-v-hiro@m6.gyo.ne.jp)
Hitomi Masuda (hmasuda716@yahoo.co.jp)
Takemi Makiishi (makiishi@tdc.ac.jp)

Version: 3 Date: August 18, 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Re: MS: 1036886372668254 - Assessment of oral self-care in patients with periodontitis: A pilot study in a dental school clinic in Japan

We thank the reviewer 3 for the comments.

Reviewer's report (Reviewer 3)
Most of the questions are sufficiently answered
Only one major revision: the first part of question 7 and question 9 are not answered. It is still unclear how to interpret the mean PCR (remember, the PCR was described in the section 'methods' as a dichotomized 'yes' or 'no' variable).
In table 2 the item is given by 'PCR (%)', but the reference at the foot of the table mentions 'mean + SD'. It is really impossible to interpret these results.

The authors’ comments:
The mean PCR (%) was provided just to give general information on the oral hygiene status of the participants as a group at baseline.
The individual PCR data was dichotomized for the purpose of statistical analysis (The fisher’s exact test). The cut-off value of the PCR for dichotomization was set at 40%. We decided that this value was appropriate considering (1) mean value of the PCR score, and (2) that the participants were at the pre-treatment stage.

We truly thank all reviewers and the editor for thoughtful and constructive suggestions and instructions. We hereby re-submit the manuscript for your consideration to publish in BMC Oral Health.

Sincerely,

Atsushi Saito, DDS, PhD
Department of Clinical Oral Health Science,
Tokyo Dental College
2-9-18 Misaki-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, 101-0061, Japan
E-mail: atsaito@tdc.ac.jp;
atsaito1@gmail.com