Reviewer's report

Title: Number of teeth and myocardial infarction and stroke among elderly people

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Reviewer number: 2

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This is a well written report adding some knowledge in a fast emerging area of research. The results are not surprising in that it can be expected that healthy "survivors" also have retained their healthy teeth. This general comment may deserve a reflection in the discussion of the current paper.

A major shortcoming is that no evaluation or registration of periodontal health or disease has been performed at all. It may appear somewhat misleading to use the term "oral clinical examination". To my understanding no such examination was performed, but the number of teeth were counted. There is no registration of CRP or microbiology.

It is suggested that the title be changed: Number of teeth and myocardial infarction and stroke among elderly never smokers.

The short title is suggested to read: Number of teeth and cardiovascular disease.

The abstract begins with the significance of oral infections. This paper does not at all deal with oral infections, maybe it is recommendable to rephrase the introduction. Also in the abstract it is stated that an oral clinical examination was performed. According to the mat&meth section no oral examination took place (mere counting the number of teeth is usually not the correct interpretation of an oral examination. This should thus be corrected in the abstract, in the section "Medical and oral clinical examination" and stressed in the discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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