Reviewer's report

Title: Identifying Brazilian dentists profile using cluster analysis based on job-related variables and perception about profession

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Reviewer: Claides Abegg

Reviewer's report:

The subject discussed by the authors is interesting and relevant, taking into consideration that very little is known about the profile of Brazilian dentists, in spite of the huge number of dentists in the country.

The introduction is concise and the research question is clearly posed and well defined.

The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting data and the title and abstract are adequate.

1) Overall, the methods are appropriate and well described. As the authors pointed out, cluster analyses is not commonly used in dentistry. However, this type of analyses seems to be adequate to the purpose of the study. In order to improve the understanding and repeatability of the research I have some comments. The questionnaire used in the study consisted of 14 closed questions. How were these questions (variables) selected? Were they based on other studies? I believe that the description of these details would help the reader and improve the quality of the article. Was the questionnaire sent by email or by the Web? If sent by email, was it embedded or attached? (In section Methods the authors say that it was “sent individually by e-mail to…..”, on page 8 they say “our data was collected using a web-based questionnaire…” (Minor Essential Revisions).

2) The response rate of the study was 50.9%, which is acceptable according to the literature, considering that the sample was not randomly selected. It would be useful to discuss the implications of the possible limitations of this response rate. In addition, have the authors used any form to improve response rate? If yes, it should be described. (Minor Essential Revisions)

3) The authors say that the respondents were predominantly females. What are the possible reasons for this? How was the sex distribution of the 642 subjects contacted by the authors? (Discretionary Revisions)

4) There are two results that need more discussion. a) Most of the respondents considered dentistry as a high-stress profession. Of those who reported to have been unable to work in the six months previous to the research, the majority claimed that their illness was partly or totally related to their professional practice. (Discretionary Revisions)
b) The group least satisfied with dentistry was composed mainly by women. At the same time, according to the authors, the number of women in dentistry is already higher than that of men. What are the implications of these findings for the dental profession? (Discretionary Revisions)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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'