Author's response to reviews

Title: The Association of Aggressive and Chronic Periodontitis with Systemic Manifestations and Dental Anomalies in a Jordanian Population: a case control study.

Authors:

Khansa T ABABNEH (KTABABNEH@HOTMAIL.COM)
Anas H Taha (anass_taha@yahoo.com)
Muna S Abbadi (monlor22@yahoo.com)
Jumana A Karasneh (jumana2003@yahoo.com)
Yousef S Khader (yousef.k@excite.com)

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Letter to the Editor of Head and Face Medicine

Corrections to the Manuscript According to Reviewers’ Comments

Dear Editor(s), 6/12/2010

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript entitled:

“The Association of Aggressive and Chronic Periodontitis with Systemic Manifestations and Dental Anomalies in a Jordanian Population: a case control study” for publication after revisions. Please find attached a corrected version of the manuscript. The corrections made are those recommended by the referees. Here is a detailed description of the corrections made:

Reviewer 1: no changes recommended

Reviewer 2: Dr Hisham Al-Shorman

A. Non-language points:

1. Methods: The Gingival Index was deleted, as recommended by the referee.

2. Page 6: line 1: "Each present tooth was examined..." should read: "For measurement of CAL, each tooth was examined...This change has been made.

3. The date of publication has been added in page 3 line 14 & page 4 line 3 and throughout the text where an author's name has been mentioned.

4. The sentence “The Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was 0.94 for CAL, indicating excellent agreement between the examiners” has been now moved from Methods to the Results section.
5. Page 6: the last paragraph describing the control sample has been moved into the Results section as the reviewer recommended, under the subheading Sociodemographic Characteristics, page 8, last paragraph.

6. The reviewer recommended that “In the results section: first paragraph (and everywhere else, the units of measurement should be mentioned, for CAL: mm). The units of measurement have been added throughout the text.

7. Reviewer stated: “In some places, the authors state that the majority or most of subjects, where they in fact refer to the group with the highest percentage (NOT the majority). Examples are page 8 line 10 and the last line in the page”.
We have now corrected this on page 8 and elsewhere in the text, e.g. page 9, paragraph 2, line 3 and page 11, lines 3 and 4.

8. In the results section, under "systemic manifestations " subtitle:
i. p values mentioned in the text are not shown in the tables, where they have to appear. The p values were added to Table 2.

ii. Last line of the paragraph “systemic manifestations”: the text says that the difference was statistically significant. Data say that it was NOT.
The reviewer is right, there was a typological error and the difference was not statistically significant; this was corrected on page 9, paragraph 1, line 3

9. Reviewer stated: “Page 9: the numbers of HAD scores presented in the text are not the same scores presented in the table. Was it just an error in copying the data?”. Yes, it was an error during preparation of the Table.
We have checked the original data and they correspond to the data in the text. The numbers in Table 3 have been verified and corrected so that they correspond to the data in the text.

10. Reviewer stated: “Page 9, in the last two sentences there is a repetition of the same idea. The following sentence should be removed " However, the difference between cases and controls, with respect to dental anomalies was statistically significant, while”. This sentence has been removed, as recommended by the referee.

11. Discussion

B. Tables:
Reviewer’s comment: “In Table 1, the p values for age are presented in a way that readers may mistakenly think that these values refer to the first subgroup rather than the whole groups. This is also seen in other sections of the table and in Table 4. The layout of the table should be modified so that these values clearly refer to the whole group.”

The layout of the Tables 1 and 4 has been modified so that they are properly related to the corresponding group (the whole group).

C. Language-related notes:

1. In abstract section:
   i. Line 4: the aim of the study was (not is). This change has been made
   ii. Line 9: to check for the presence (not confirm). The word confirm was replaced with the word check.
   iii. Line 18: compared to controls. This statement has been adjusted.

2. In background section:
   i. Line 8: may involve the crowns (not crown). This has been corrected.
   ii. Line 8: so that the size (not and the size) – this reads more clear. This has been corrected

3. In methods section:
   i. Line 11: with diabetes mellitus or blood disorders (not, blood disorders).
      “Or” is now added
   ii. Line 16: add the word "plaque" so the sentence reads: inconsistence between amount of plaque deposits.
      The word plaque has been added.
   iii. Line 17: add the word "periodontal" so the sentence reads: amount of periodontal destruction.
      The word “periodontal” has been added.
   iv. Line 21: add “in this study” at the end of the paragraph.
      “In this study” has been added.

4. In results section:
i. Page 8 Line 10: subjects were young, females, unemployed, had…(no need for repetition of "were").  
The repetitions were deleted.

ii. Page 9 line 11: the sentence should read: "…between the anxiety and depression scores of AP compared to controls" (not …scores of AP and controls).

corrected now on page 9, in paragraph “Anxiety and Depression using the HAD Scale”. LINE 13.

Sincerely,

Dr Khansa Ababneh