Reviewer's report

Title: Obesity and dental caries in children and adolescents: a systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 1 May 2012

Reviewer: Julie Eichenberger Gilmore

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. page 3, para 1: . . . .multifactorial diseases that have impact on children's . . . .
2. page 3, para 1: Please specify what development outcomes you are talking about.
3. page 3, para 1: The link between the two conditions is striking and changes . .
4. page 3, para 1: It is necessary to clarify that BMI is being used as a surrogate for obesity and why that is appropriate.
5. page 5, para 1, line 2: The abstract states that papers published between 2004-2010 inclusive are included. This section states until June 2011. Please clarify.
6. page 5, para 2, line 4: It is not clear why you include two studies from Kantowitz' review since you earlier stated the purpose was to explore development since that review.
7. page 21: ISI and Cochrane are not indicated in Box 1 but they were mentioned in the Methods. Please indicate the date of the search.
8. Figure 1: It is confusing that the 2 extra articles are described with the 41. Are they part of the 41 or are they extra?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Abstract: Depending on the editor's guidelines, define abbreviations before first use, i.e., ISI, CINAHL.
2. I suggest rewriting the results sentence to more clearly summarize the findings. Avoid the use of "appears" and state your findings.
3. page 3, para 2, line 2: delete "only"
4. page 3, para 2, line 3: change "their" to "the" and delete "actually"
5. page 3, para 2, line 4: delete "only"
6. page 3, para 2, line 5: change "different" to "numerous"
7. page 4, line 3: it is not clear what you mean by "early BMI status"
8. page 4, line 6-7: I don't think the Google search statement adds anything to
the manuscript and suggest deleting it.

9. page 7, para 2, line 6-7: Suggest "Five studies were undertaken as field examinations; and rated 3 [20,30,31,32] or 4 [14]."

Discretionary Revisions

1. page 7, para 1, line 3: cite the two studies that found dental caries were associated with both high and low BMI. They were hard to find by scanning the tables.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.