Reviewer's report

Title: Is self-reported toothbrushing frequency a reliable indicator for the assessment of oral hygiene in epidemiological studies on caries in adolescents? A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2014

Reviewer: Julie Agel

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

On page 4 lines 6-9 and 13-16 appear to repeat information; please re-write, combine, or eliminate.

It is unclear why you are collecting the socio-demographic and economic characteristics since they do not appear to be part of your hypothesis.

Please explain why you collected this information.

Did every caregiver provide that information?

More information on your sample is required - It is hard to believe every child assented and every parent consented and completed all the paperwork.

Was all of this done in Portuguese? Are all these instruments reliable in Portuguese?

Please clarify how the intra-examiner agreement took place and what the number of examiners was. (Page 7 line 5) as well as some kappa results.

Discretionary Revision

Why do you think that cross-sectional design is a limitation - what would you have preferred to do?

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