Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between residual teeth number in later life and incidence of dementia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Anna-Luisa Klotz

Reviewer's report:

The study aims to be a systematic review analyzing relationship between number of teeth and dementia. The topic is important and interesting.

However, prior to publication the manuscript needs major restructuring and revisions. Especially the discussion section is overloaded and confusing. There is no connection to the introduction. Furthermore, the grammar is inadequate. Before resubmission to BMC Geriatric major revision by a native speaker is necessary.

Some of the specific comments are listed below:

Abstract:

The first sentence includes "later life" twice. (Lines 7,8)

The second sentence includes "to" twice. "Our objective was to to systematically…” (Lines 8,9)

Do not use the words "I", "we", "our",…. (Lines 13,14)

Background:

In addition to several orthographic mistakes the grammar of the section is inadequate. Furthermore, there are some comments:

Lines 31,32: Provide a reference.

Lines 39-41: Provide an explanation for the limitations of the other studies. I recommend to describe the current studies of the literature and point out the findings and the limitations. The current introduction of the manuscript is confusing and does not provide a sufficient background for this study.
Methods:

Page 4:

The description of the inclusion and exclusion criteria is inadequate:

Lines 13/14: "…or in various combinations…": What does that mean? Give specific inclusion criteria/ specific key word combinations.

Lines 22/23: "We searched studies depicting high and low residual teeth group at the time of study completion." What does high and low mean? Be specific.

Lines 42/43: "We also hand-searched the eligible articles". What does that mean? Did you not read the other articles?

Lines 51/52: Provide the name of the institution and the number of the ethical approval document.

Page 5:

Lines 22-25: The sentence makes no sense.

Results:

The presentation of the results is also inadequate. I recommend to present the data with a mean and SD.

Define high and low residual teeth group participants.

Are the methods appropriate and well described? 
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls? 
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? 
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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