Reviewer's report

Title: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES AND MALNUTRITION IN A SUB-URBAN POPULATION IN NIGERIA

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Dorota T Kopycka-Kedziersawki

Reviewer's report:

The following comments are offered for the authors' consideration:

1. In the abstract, suggest to include 95% CIs next to the APRs.
2. The authors left out in the methods section important information that can be summarized in a few sentences, rather than asking to read a prior paper. Important information to include will be: who did the oral examinations and at what conditions, assessed the OH, if the examiners were calibrated?
3. It is not clear how the children were recruited to the study, was that a convenience sample? What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria?
4. When calculating sample size- the assumption was of a prevalence of ECC of 6.6% with the margin of error of 3%. Interestingly the prevalence of ECC as reported in the study was 4.9% and the primary study was 6.6%. Was the sample size calculated after the prevalence of ECC was assessed? Not clear where the estimation of ECC comes from? What is the prevalence of ECC in Nigeria in the comparable population of children? Are these data available?
5. Given such a low prevalence of ECC in the sample (18 children in the current study, 33 in the primary study) it is not clear the relevance of the findings? I understand that the authors focused on ECC prevalence, it would be informative to at least mention the severity of the disease.
6. There was no ECC in children 6 to 25 months of age, there were no children with poor oral hygiene (based on what measure?)-how this was accounted for in the final analyses?
7. Not sure why 2 versions of Stata software were used?
8. The discussion should be framed in the context of the ECC etiology and possible mechanism that relate to the association of ECC prevalence with weight status.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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