Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 13 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Duangporn Duangthip

Reviewer's report:

It is an interesting study evaluating the association between malnutrition and ECC in Nigeria. The manuscript was well written and provided useful information in the context where malnutrition is prevalent. However, some issues are needed to be clarified before publishing as follows;

Abstract
1. My understanding is the term 'preschool children' usually referring to 3-5 year old children, whereas the study recruited a wide range of children's age (from 6 months (infant) and 1-3 years (toddlers) to 3-5 years (preschool))
   May I suggest to change the word to 'children younger than 6'.
2. What is APR stand for?
3. Please describe the results of prevalence of ECC in the present study
4. Please indicate the mean age of the study population
4. Please add p value of significant factors.
5. The details of APR values of non-significant factors may not be important to be presented in the abstract.

Introduction
It is well written. However, it seems that there are substantial references (60 references in the introduction), please cite the key references.

Method
Well described.
How many invited? participation rates?
Please also indicate who are the examiners (dentists?) how many examiners (for dental examination) and examiners for nutritional status? Did they collect the data independently?
Setting of dental examination? with mirror? light source?
How’s about the intra and inter-reliability of the examination?

Results
Please describe the mean(SD) age, mean dmft (SD) and prevalence of ECC and Mean (SD) of oral hygiene status in the text.
Table 1 and 2; Please correct the age range from 24-25 months to 24-35 months
Discussion
Due to the wide range of age, children aged 6 month -2 years may not develop ECC yet since their teeth are just erupting. Please state in the conclusion that the results were based on the children aged 6 months to 5 year old.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Declaration of competing interests
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