Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 20 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Dorota T Kopycka-Kedzierawski

Reviewer's report:

Suggestions to the authors: introduction and discussion is not adequate. Please make sure it flows and involves pertinent information, for example. I would like to see more in relation to the mechanism of ECC and malnutrition as this is a bidirectional process.

Please correct the definition of ECC according to AAPD—it is not one tooth but one surface with dfms>0.

I still have an issue with very low prevalence of ECC in this sample. I asked in the prior review what is the prevalence of ECC in Nigeria? Are these data known? How representative the study sample is, it is hard to judge without background information. Also, given the very low ECC prevalence (and severity) in the sample—the authors mentioned inflation of variance in the discussion. It needs more explanation.

Potential confounding factors related to ECC and not taken into consideration should be mentioned, including access to oral health care, FV applications, history of breastfeeding and feeding at night etc.

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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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