Reviewer’s report

Title: Common risk indicators for oral diseases and obesity in 12-year-olds: a South Pacific cross sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 23 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Paul S. Casamassimo

Reviewer's report:

1. Please justify your choice of 12 year-old subjects who you acknowledge are in transitional dentition and thus may present an inaccurate dental caries history.

2. Likewise, can you explain the smoking pattern in 12 year-old children? Would we expect other than minimal use of tobacco at this age? the dichotomous variable is pretty vague.

3. Would adiposity be clouded in a pre-pubertal or near-pubertal population rather than an earlier age group, due to hormonal influences.

4. Clarify the periodontal inflammation criteria. This should be reflective of a scale or index ideally.

5. Due to the extensive nature of the variables I might suggest that some commentary on the calibration and training be added.

6. The overall dichotomy of some variables bothers me and I see those as somewhat vague and not really descriptive of a broad experience.

   The authors post facto admit to these various shortcomings, but maybe ought to have considered them a priori, as they limit the utility of the study.

7. The conclusions may be extended a bit far, based on the above.
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.

Unable to assess

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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