Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk for cervical herniated intervertebral disc in dentists: a nationwide population-based study

Authors:

Chien-Cheng Huang (chienchenghuang@yahoo.com.tw)

Ping-Jang Kuo (cyanidekit@gmail.com)

Chien-Chin Hsu (nych2525@gmail.com)

Hung-Jung Lin (hjlin52@gmail.com)

Shih-Bin Su (shibin.su@msa.hinet.net)

Jhi-Joung Wang (400002@mail.chimei.org.tw)

Shih-Feng Weng (sfweng@kmu.edu.tw)

Version: 4 Date: 03 Apr 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Editor Comments

1. While assessing your manuscript in-house, we found several instances where the text displayed similarities to text found in other previously published sources. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work, even if it is your own. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the sections listed below to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate: Methods – Huang, W-T, Weng, S-F, Hsu, C-C, et al. Comparison of the risk of developing lumbar herniated intervertebral disc between dentists and other occupations: A nationwide population-based study in Taiwan. J Occup Health. 2019; 00: 1– 8. https://doi.org/10.1002/1348-9585.12036

We understand that it may be impractical to rewrite or omit the methodology described in your paper to avoid overlap with previous publication, especially since the previous publication is one of your own. Therefore we ask that you reference/acknowledge the original article where this methodology was first published.

Response: In response to the Editor’s comment, we cited our published article as the Reference #14 in the Methods of the revised manuscript.

Response: In response to the Reviewer’s comment, we revised the sentences as “Persistent contraction of cervical muscles may cause degeneration or herniation of the spinal discs [4]. The suggested strategies for prevention of C-HIVD include the strengthening and frequent relaxing and stretching of the neck muscles and preservation of the cervical lordosis by engaging in proper posture for all activities [4]. The trend of increased risk for C-HIVD in the younger dentists may impact their jobs. Dentists should receive education about musculoskeletal health, injury prevention, and dental ergonomics as early as possible [4]. In a review article, the authors suggested that most dentists lack the skills and knowledge for practicing in a manner that is ergonomically correct and the insufficiency of training may be due to lack of better teachers and teaching tools [4]. The following approaches could be adopted, including education of prevention, selection of ergonomic equipment, strategies for posture and position, and frequent stretching and strengthening exercises during breaks [4].” in the Discussion of the revised manuscript.