Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 07 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
No - there are minor issues

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
No - there are major issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
No - there are major issues

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a technically sound contribution?
Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Introduction
The introduction is well written and clear. I have no further comments.

Methods
Why did you exclude those diagnosed before 2007? Why did you not use a longer follow up period? You indicate this as a limitation but what was the rationale?

You should explain the inclusion criteria of the study. I am also wondering why you did not look at other musculoskeletal conditions as part of your list of comorbidities such as low back pain. This is surprising as you cite several studies that link PSP to other MSD conditions in the discussion section (line 39-44 on page 9).
Results
No comments

Discussion
There needs to be a greater demonstration of linking the study findings to the existing literature. The current discussion is thin and needs to be expanded.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The methods section needs to be revised to align with the study objectives and the discussion.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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No