Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 26 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Samannaaz Khoja

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed all comments satisfactorily. There are few minor changes that need to be addressed in the revised manuscript:

1) As per the STROBE checklist, please also indicate that the study design is retrospective in the abstract methods.

2) Introduction, P5, lines 54-57 "Dentists are at the higher end of health care professionals in terms of musculoskeletal injury [9]." The message of this sentence is unclear- please elaborate and provide some quantitative data to support what you mean by "higher end".

3) The discussion has been expanded to include future directions and suggestions for preventing C-HIVD in dentists and authors have mainly used material from Reference 4, which is a very nice comprehensive review on preventing musculoskeletal injuries in dentist. However, some of the sentences need to be carefully restated. On Pg-11, lines 12-24- "Most dentists lack the skills and knowledge for practicing in a manner that is ergonomically correct [4]. The insufficiency of training may be due to lack of better teachers and teaching tools [4]." From reading these sentences it seems that the studies in Ref 4 have surveyed dentists on their exercise habits or surveyed dental curriculum and teachers to reach this conclusion. However, on going back to Ref 4, I find that this is not the case and these sentences are merely the opinion of the authors who wrote that review. I strongly suggest that the authors reword these statements to indicate that lack of knowledge, teaching tools etc are merely opinions or hypotheses from prior research to explain why dentists are predisposed to higher rates of neck pain and C-HIVD. Alternatively, if there are prior studies that actually surveyed dentists on their posture habits or lack of exercise, or lack of training on PSPs and how to avoid injury, please include those references in the discussion as well.
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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