Reviewer's report

Title: The Correlation Between Psychological Status and Oral Conditions with Self-perceived Halitosis among Jordanian Patients

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Reviewer: Takahiko Oho

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Major comments:

The purpose of this study was to correlate the self-perceived halitosis with several aspects including psychological status, oral conditions and dental hygiene. The authors analyzed 100 patients who visited halitosis clinic at University Hospital with or without self-perception of halitosis. The authors found that most of the patients with self-perceived halitosis had actual malodor. Comparing the self-perceived halitosis group with non-self-perceived halitosis group, authors found that the age and smoking habits were different between them. There were no associations between self-perceived halitosis and psychological dimensions. The authors concluded that self-reporting of halitosis is a unique entity and a trust worthy symptom, and halitosis was more related to non-oral pathologies including smoking in the study. The results demonstrated here are somewhat interesting. Since halitosis has a psychological etiology, this type of research is essential to develop treatment methods for malodor patients. In previous studies, Oho et al. (J Dent, 2001) reported that patients with a lower degree of halitosis showed a stronger psychopathological profile, Suzuki et al. (Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod. 2008) showed every item in the CMI questionnaire was negatively correlated with the OLT scores, and Settineri et al. (Health Qual Life Outcomes, 2010) showed factors including anxiety and oral hygiene linked with self-reported halitosis. The results in this study are not consistent with the previous reports, but it seems reasonable since halitosis is multifactorial symptom. More discussion is necessary about the cause of different results citing these previous reports. In addition, several concerns arise which will improve the manuscript.

Minor comments:

1. Page 6, line 144
The number of females was not 49 but 59 based on Table 2.

2. Table 4
In this table, authors divided subjects with self-perceived halitosis to two groups, group with actual malodor and group without actual malodor. It is unclear what the value means? Which item did the authors use to relate to the score of SCL-90R? What kind of statistical method was used?
3. Page 8, line 175 and 179
The term 'general population' is inappropriate, since all the subjects were recruited from patients who had history of oral malodor.

4. Page 8, line 190
methyl mercaptan is CH3SH, and dimethyl sulfide is (CH3)2S.

5. Page 9, line 215
It is better to change the expression to modest form, since the result were not significant levels.

6. Page 10, line 250
Reference is incomplete.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I have no competing interests.