Reviewer’s report

Title: Longitudinal study of dental caries incidence associated with Streptococcus mutans and Streptococcus sobrinus in patients with intellectual disabilities

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Reviewer: John Butcher

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BMC Oral Health Review

Major compulsory Revisions

1. The study incorporated 145 patients with ID between the ages of 6 and 30. ID is a very broad term. The condition needs to be defined.

2. This age range is large, can these individuals be classed in the same group, see comment 1.

3. The Igarashi paper cited does not describe a primer set for detection of S. mutans – there is therefore no evidence to the validate this primer set. Include an appropriate citation or show the PCR as a figure / supplementary figure.

4. There is no good reason for including the 16S rRNA information – none of the data was shown and the method is not novel. The reference for this primer set is also wrong, or did the authors design this primer set? Clarify.

5. Both tables are poorly formatted. Amend.

The authors state in the discussion that quantitative studies are required. I am in agreement with this, but I am of the opinion that quantitative studies need to be included to make this manuscript suitable for publication. Without them there is little value to the present manuscript. As the authors are aware, PCR detection of S. mutans and S. sobrinus in dental plaque has been routine for over a decade. The only novel factor to the manuscript appears to be the population tested, which in itself is poorly defined and over a large age range.

The research does not constitute a useful contribution to the field.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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 declare that I have no competing interests