Reviewer's report

Title: A qualitative study of the views of adolescents on their caries risk and prevention behaviours.

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2015

Reviewer: Rahul Naidu

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A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF THE VIEWS OF ADOLESCENTS ON THEIR CARIES RISK AND PREVENTION BEHAVIOURS.

This manuscript reports interesting research on an important topic. The study was well conducted and the report clearly and concisely written. The manuscript could be improved by addressing the following suggestions.

• Major Compulsory Revisions

Method

1/ Line 149- “The interviewer had received training in conducting semi-structured interviews”. By whom and what did this training involve?

2/ In the data analyses section there needs to be some more description of the ‘framework approach’ i.e. how does it differ from other types of thematic analyses and the reason it was chosen for this study?

3/ The term ‘theme saturation’ should be described in some more detail.

4/ How was data validity ensured? Was the issue of reflexivity addressed?

Results

5/ The IMDQ measure reported in table 3 needs to be explained in some more detail.

Discussion / Conclusion

6/ In the section ‘oral health for the future’, the comment made by respondent 5 (line 400-404) relates to the important health promotion concept of ‘making healthy choice the easy choices’ This should be discussed in some more depth in reference to the NHSP.

7/ Line 464 “advice provided by the dental team was perceived as inadequate and not tailored to the needs of the individual”. This statement needs need some elaboration.

8/ Line 536 “The delivery of individual prevention packages has been met with relative skepticism”. By whom and why? The authors should refer to current recommendations relating to very brief and brief interventions given by the dental team for promoting positive oral health behaviours (Delivering Better Oral Health 3rd edition, Department of Health 2014).
• Minor Essential Revisions

9/ The topic guide should be presented as a list or table.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests