**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Normative prosthodontic care need: does it impact the daily life of young Saudis with high level of oral diseases? a cross sectional study

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 06 Jun 2017

**Reviewer:** AlBandary AlJameel

**Reviewer’s report:**

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**Abstract**

What does young adult mean? What was the youngest & oldest age (Line 18)

The last sentence of abstract's conclusion does not fit well, also not related/supported by the study findings! (Line 44)

**Material & methods**

Regarding the risk factors in the "materials & methods" section, it would be better if justifications for recording variables into "binary" were provided!

How was the variable "fluoride exposure" treated during analysis? What did the result reveal? (Line 103, 110)

Questions of the impact of oral diseases on daily life, were they taken from validated questionnaire? If yes, why not mentioned? If no, how did you come up with such list of factors/items? Please provide explanation. (Line 112)

Last paragraph need to be re-written/re-arranged to make it more readable! (Line 125)

The proposed conceptual framework was not easy to read and follow, especially the absence of links or suggested pathways. The author can massively improve this important part. (Line 133)

**Results**
Table 1, the number of lost teeth: mean & SD is 2.0 & 3.9 respectively, can you double-check it. Why SD is higher that the mean? Was there any skewed data?

It would be easier for the reader to follow your figure if you label it in the same order of information presented. So write Impact of untreated decay, need for periodontal care, and need for prosthetic care (adjusted & unadjusted) on daily life aspects. (Line 454)

If the text were better explained, may be I would understand the figure 1 more easily! Revise the arrows in the figure

May be you need to make it clear (probably two figures) factors that affect prosthetic care and then link it to its impact on daily life!

Discussion

You cannot generalize the statement for the whole adults in the Eastern Province; but you can say 46.7% of the study sample! (Line 225)

Last sentence of the first paragraph "Our findings thus partly support the study hypothesis where higher disease level was associated with higher normative need for prosthetic care but not with impact on daily life" this might suggest that normative needs assessment could overestimate the treatment need as it is not affecting patients' quality of life, therefore treatment is not needed!! (Line 230)

"Our results show that almost all those with teeth loss (47.4%) needed prosthetic care (46.7%) indicating that they have not sought care to replace their loss" (Line 243); might also mean that normative need assessment is overestimating the treatment need and should not be considered as a main indicator of treatment need (we should also consider the perceived or expressed need).

"In our study, neither prosthetic care need nor the numbers of lost teeth were independently associated with daily life aspects although some effect was due to the underlying diseases" (Line 284); the absence of association might be a result of location of lost teeth. Loosing one or two posterior teeth while having a sufficient function (chewing, speaking, not affecting the appearance) might not have any negative impact on daily activities and this could explain your case! Have you collected any data on the location of lost teeth?

"Our results can thus be generalized to young populations with high levels of oral diseases in spite of the accessibility of health care services" (Line 300); that is difficult to confirm as the sampling did not explain the randomization process of selecting your participants although you mentioned "A random sample was selected stratified by gender" (Line 83) more details are needed here

**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.

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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