Reviewer’s report

Title: Oral cancer screening practices of Oral Health Professionals in Australia

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Karla Crosara

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript "Oral cancer screening practices of Oral Health Professionals in Australia", OHEA-D-17-00305, is a well-structured survey-based evaluation of the oral screening practices of Oral Health Professionals (OHPs - dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, and oral health therapists) practicing in Victoria, Australia. Besides investigating oral screening practices of OHPs, other objectives of the study were to evaluate their oral cancer-related opinions and attitudes, and to identify factors associated with the probability of OHP performing an oral cancer screening examination. Since only half of the OHPs that participated in the study performed oral cancer screening examinations for all their patients, the authors concluded that there is need for more oral cancer-related education and screening training for OHPs, which should improve oral cancer prevention and early detection.

Comments:

In the Discussion section, page 11, lines 52 to 59, the authors mentioned that their results contrast to earlier studies done in Australia and elsewhere regarding OHPs performing comprehensive oral cancer screening with all patients. Maybe, the authors could elaborate on the reasons for such difference.

In addition, the authors should include a title for Table 4, and remove from Table 3 a line which repeats 'Screening examination involved:', page 26, line 15. It would also make the reader more engaged if the tables were referenced within the text as their data is reported. Only tables 1 and 2 were cited within the text.

Finally, a few minor typo mistakes were observed that should be considered by the authors: 1. In the background section, page 2, line 10, instead of 'have been', maybe 'has been' would be more appropriate; page 2, line 52, 'reviews' should be written without the 's'; and 2. In the Data Analysis section, page 7, line 5, 'analyses' should be written 'analysis'; also in page 7, line 22, it would be best to use 'All these 45 OHPs' than 'All this...".

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.
Unable to assess

**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:

Acceptable

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