Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effect of methamphetamine abuse on dental caries and periodontal diseases in an Eastern China city

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Title: The effect of methamphetamine abuse on dental caries and periodontal diseases in an Eastern China city

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Response to Editor’s Comments

[Point 1]: Objective. The authors wrote - The aim of the present study was to investigate the oral health status of former meth abusers in Eastern China. The revision of the manuscript has made this more specific. The objective was to study the caries and periodontal health profile of Meth users. Please revise this in the manuscript. This allows for specificity.

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! This point has been revised according to your suggestion. Please see the revised manuscript Page 3 Line 5.
[Point 2]: Result section of abstract. Please report p as <0.001 and not 0. The abstract also concludes that oral health was poor. Oral health was not assessed.

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! The manuscript has been revised. Please see the revised manuscript Page 4 Line 2,4,5,7.

[Point 3]: In the methodology section of the manuscript - was P-values < 0.05 or P-values was less than or equal to 0.05? Please clarify

[Response]: In the present study, P-values less than 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant. Please see the revised manuscript Page 9 Line 7.

[Point 4]: The authors wrote - However, the tooth brushing time had no significant effect on the DT, MT, FT and DMFT scores. The measure was a measure of association not a measure of effect. Please change the terminology to tooth brushing time had no significant association with ....

[Response]: The manuscript has been revised according to your suggestion. Please see the revised manuscript Page 10 Line 16.

[Point 5]: The authors note - Despite the higher prevalence and severity of caries, the manifestation of caries is also different from that of the general population. In drug abusers, caries usually results in extensive destruction, especially on the labial and buccal surfaces. This finding is not as a result of this data analysis. Since this was deleted from the manuscript as noted in the response to comments, please delete this phrase

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! This paragraph has been deleted in the revised manuscript.

[Point 6]: Discussion - one again, please delete results from the discussion. You are once again reporting figures in the discussion. Can you please not do this?

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! We have deleted all the result figures in Discussion section. Please see the revised manuscript.

[Point 7]: The authors wrote - participants suffered from some kind of system. Please once again, avoid stigmatising language. Participants had some kind of systemic diseases is polite, not suffer. Language matters and it communicates respect.

[Response]: Thank you for your good suggestion! The word “suffered from” has been replaced with “had”. Please see the revised manuscript Page 14 Line 3.

[Point 8]: 11.11% is not only. Please remove the qualification only for the statistics on 11.11%. Avoid all these repetition of statistical figures. Reference to a tenth will convey the message
[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! The manuscript has been revised. Please see the revised Page 14 Line 4.

[Point 9]: Also rewrite the statement - HIV prevalence was 0. Better represented as there was no participant with HIV infection

[Response]: The manuscript has been revised according to your suggestion. Please see the revised Page 14 Line 4-5.

[Point 10]: The authors wrote - Although the prevalence of systemic infectious diseases in meth abusers was not significantly high. First, the manuscript did not generate any data that showed that the prevalence of systemic infection was significantly or not significantly high. This statement does not represent the study finding. Second, prevalence of systemic disease was not the study objective. It is therefore inappropriate to open the conclusion with a statement that is not the focus of the study. Thirdly, the prevalence of systemic disease in the study population was high.

[Response]: Thank you for your good suggestion! The sentence “Although the prevalence of systemic infectious diseases in meth abusers was not significantly high due to the high rate of inhalation” has been deleted in Conclusions section.

[Point 11]: The authors wrote - Prolonged drug abuse and lower frequency of tooth brushing may be the risk factors of their poor oral health. Oral health was not studied. caries and periodontal health status was studied.

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! The word “oral health” has been replaced with “status of caries and periodontal diseases”. Please see the revised manuscript Page 14 Line 21 and Page 15 Line 1.

[Point 12]: The authors wrote - Dentists should be trained to identify drug abusers who seek care in their clinics and to pay particular attention to their oral health. This is not a recommendation resulting from the study. There is nothing indicating dentists do not have the competency to identify drug users in this study. There is nothing that indicates they had not been paying particular attention to their oral health. Please revise and make recommendations based on the study outcome

[Response]: Thank you for your suggestion! We have rewritten the recommendation. Please see the revised manuscript Page 15 Line 2-3.

[Point 13]: Table 1 - please improve the title of the table to represent the content.

[Response]: Thank you for your good suggestion! The table title has been changed into “The key variables of caries and periodontal diseases among former meth abusers”. Please see the revised manuscript Page 23 Line 1.