Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of Dental Caries and Associated Factors among 12 Years Old Students in Eritrea

Version: 0 Date: 25 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Raquel Antoniazzi

Reviewer's report:

This cross-sectional study assess the prevalence and associated factors of dental caries among 12 years old school children in Eritrea. Using a sample of 225 twelve years old students, the authors found that the prevalence of dental caries, mean DMFT and SiC scores were higher when compared with the average score of developing countries. Further insights into the text should be provided for better understanding as follow:

1. Title: I suggest removing the study's design from the title: "Prevalence of dental caries and associated factors among 12 year old students in Eritrea"

2. Background: Page 3, Line 47: Clarify the meaning of "MDGs"

3. Background: Page 4, Line 17: The objective of the background does not describe the assessment of factors associated with dental caries as the title.

4. Sampling design: Page 4, Line 41: Explain better how students were selected randomly in the subzones and in the schools.

5. Data collection procedure: Page 5, Line 4: Specify which questionnaire was used? Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors and potential confounders.

6. Data analysis: Page 5, Line 18: The title describes the objective of assessing the prevalence of dental caries and associated factors. A multivariate analysis with adjustment for possible confounding variables should be performed.

7. Discussion: Clarify better the limitations and the generalizability (external validity) of the study results.

8. Conclusion: The conclusion can be better clarified according to the objectives of the study.
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.

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.