Reviewer’s report

Title: Salivary characteristics and dental caries experience in remote Indigenous children in Australia: A cross-sectional study.

Version: 0 Date: 26 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Maria Grazia Cagetti

Reviewer's report:

This study aims to evaluate the associations between caries prevalence and severity and some salivary parameters in remote children population from Australia.

The topic of the paper is not of great relevance since many papers addressed these associations in different populations and the findings of the present study do not add new knowledge on this topic.

It would have been more interesting if the authors would have analyzed in greater depth the examined population's dietary habits in relation to caries prevalence.

Some suggestions to improve the paper

The abstract Conclusions do not fit with the aim of the study and with the study design.

A flow chart of the study design needs to be included

Poor data on the demographic characteristics of the enrolled populations are provided

Caries data might to be included (total prevalence, DMFS/dmfs and severity)

Calibration of the examiners is poorly described and no data on reliability intra and inter examiners are provided

The methods used to evaluate hydration and consistency of saliva need to be supported by references.

How were yeasts measured?

No information regarding the questionnaire are provided

The paper's discussion is interesting but does not discuss the given findings.

References are not reported in the style requested by the journal
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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