Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 06 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Augusto Elias-Boneta

Reviewer's report:

Overall comments:

The authors need to edit the manuscript to address grammar issues (wrong use of capital letters for example: Globe and Indigenous) and paragraph structure.

STROBE guidelines for cross-sectional studies should be used.

Additional comments:

The study design should be stated in the title.

In the background section (abstract) and introduction the "low human development index" statement should be clarified. According to the United Nation Development Programme's Human Development Report, Australia has a very high human development. If should be stated as: Although Australia has a high human development index, the indigenous population human development index is low (please include a reference in the Introduction section).

Methods: The authors should summarize the purpose and methods of the main study. Were all the children in the main study caries active? if this is the case, was their saliva collected/analyzed; how this salivary data compare to that of caries active children? Consider using a procedure flow-chart.

Results: In this section, interpretation should be avoided (Interpretation should be in the Discussion Section).

Discussion: Most of the discussion is not pertinent to the results. How your results compare to other studies in the literature? What are the strengths and limitations? The discussion is too long. The paragraphs regarding brushing, fluoride, and diet should be summarized. Are there studies in the literature regarding the effect of brushing, F, and diet on salivary parameters? How they compare to your results?

Conclusion: It is too long. (lines 17-28 should be part of the Discussion section).

Tables: Contain errors. Table 2 page 20 (the 6th column should be permanent dentition instead of...
deciduous). It is unclear what the meaning of (1), (2), (3), (4), in the Mutans streptococci and Lactobacilli (page 23); need a footnote.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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