Reviewer’s report

Title: Oral health of 6-7 year-old children according to the Caries Assessment Spectrum and Treatment (CAST) index

Version: 0 Date: 17 Sep 2018

Reviewer: María del Carmen Villanueva Vilchis

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper that examined the oral health status of 6- to 7-year-old children based on the CAST index and Oral Health Index-Simplified (OHI-S) in relation to their parents' oral health knowledge, and background determinants.

The paper is well written and the method is sound.

I have few suggestions to improve the paper.

International reader would benefit from some information about dental coverage for children and availability of water fluoridation in this part of Iran.

I think it would be useful to justify why the researchers only considered children from 6 to 7 years of age when even in the introduction, they mentioned that the distribution of caries might be different according to the groups of age.

Is the questionnaire of knowledge of oral health a valid instrument?

It would be useful to give a brief description of the children that refused the study.

The authors should briefly discuss any potential implications of the results to health promotion interventions/policies.

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.

Yes

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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