Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk factors of early childhood caries (ECC) among children in Beijing - a prospective cohort study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Prof. Narendar Manohar:

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript, which was entitled “Risk factors of early childhood caries (ECC) among children in Beijing - a prospective cohort study” (OHEA-D-18-00495).

Thanks must go to the editors and reviewers for their positive and constructive comments on the manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to reviewers’ and editorial comments. The main corrections in the manuscript and the responses to the comments are as follows. We sincerely wish that all these changes may fulfill the requirements to make the manuscript acceptable for publication in BMC Oral Health.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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Responses to the comments:

According to the reviewers’ and editorial comments, we have made the following revisions on this manuscript:

Guglielmo Campus (Reviewer 1):

A- the main issue is related to the ethical consideration. The patients affected at baseline were treated? Or patients that at baseline had a higher mutans streptococci concentration had some kind of preventive measure?

We are sorry for the negligence of relevant statement. Guardians of all children at baseline were given the results of oral examination and treatment advice. Oral health education and topical fluoride were also implemented as routine. The outreach group of our department provide dental treatment in our cooperative kindergartens, including kindergartens involved in this study. All participants with caries can receive dental treatment with their guardians’ consent. We have added a sentence “The dental treatment for all participants with caries after baseline examination were not interfered” to the participant part as supplementary. (M&M -participants-last line, page 6)

B- please explain the sample size procedure “convenience sampling method is not clear”

In order to perform the study smoothly, we selected several kindergartens near our hospital, and our department has cooperated with these kindergartens for many years. In addition, all children aged 3-4 years in these kindergartens were invited to take part in our study. For more clearly
statement, “six cooperative kindergartens near our hospital were selected for study” were added in the method part. (M&M - participants- line 6, page5-6)

C- what about the examiner calibration for the follow-up examination?

We highly appreciate the reviewer’s carefulness. Our department has more than ten cooperative kindergartens. Oral examinations are offered to all children in these kindergartens at least once per year. The two examiners of this study often perform these examinations and calibration, and therefore we did not calibrate for the follow-up examination.

Tamanna Tiwari, BDS, MDS, MPH (Reviewer 2):

the authors have used "parent" in some places and "guardians" at other places in the paper. Pls be consistent in using the terminologies.

Thanks for the reviewer’s careful inspection. we changed from “parents” to “guardians” in the manuscript:

M&M-Ethics statement-line 1, page 5
Discussion-paragraph 5- line 7, page 13

Editorial comments:

1. I believe the similarity score is quite high so kindly reduce it to around 13% to ensure there is no plagiarism.

Thanks for the kind reminder, some sentences were rephrased to be different from the published paper as follows:

M&M – participants, page 5-6
M&M – Microbiological test, page 6-7
M&M – Dental examination, page 7-8
2. all submissions to BMC Oral Health must have a Declarations section which includes the mandatory sub-sections listed below.

**Declarations**

- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements
- Authors' Information

We have checked our manuscript contained the mandatory sub-sections, and changed the statement to “Not applicable” in consent for publication.