Author’s response to reviews

Title: The impact of ICDAS on occlusal caries treatment recommendations for high caries risk patients: an in vitro study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Professor Rechmann,

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Oral Health.

We have now completed the revision of the manuscript. A clear distinction between Caries as a disease, Caries Lesion as a manifestation and Caries Process is now evident throughout the manuscript. Also, the manuscript was reviewed by an English native speaker (Professor Jack Toumba).

We look forward to hearing from you

Best Wishes

Muawia

Response to Reviewers’ Comments:

We would like again to thank the reviewers for their time, expert opinion and suggestions. In this report, we respond to all points raised by the reviewers.

Comments- Terminology:
The problem with terminology is still persisting. The distinction between “caries” and “carious” as well as has to be made. The term “caries” is related to the process (caries process) or the disease (caries disease). When referring to a lesion, the authors must say/write “carious lesion”, “occlusal carious lesion” (e.g. modify “occlusal caries” line 20 in background chapter). I know that some academics do not make the difference, but this is not a reason for not using the latest terminology…

ICCMS™ means international caries classification and management system; thus, there is no need to add “caries management system” after the acronym in “Methods” lines 46 and 48.

Response:

Using the definitions recommended by Innes et al 2016 (Terminology of caries lesion management. Advances in Dental Research 28:49-57), we have revised the use of the terms dental caries and dental caries lesion/s throughout the manuscript. In summary, we used the following definitions to describe what was done in our study:

Dental caries: Dental caries is the name of a disease resulting from an ecologic shift within the dental biofilm, from a balanced population of micro-organisms to an acidogenic, acidoduric and cariogenic microbiological population developed and maintained by frequent consumption of fermentable dietary carbohydrates The resulting activity shift in the biofilm is associated with an imbalance between de- and remineralisation leading to net mineral loss within dental hard tissues, the sign and symptom being a carious lesion.

Caries lesion: A caries/carious lesion is a detectable change in the tooth structure that results from the biofilm-tooth interactions occurring due to the disease caries. It is the clinical manifestation (sign) of the caries process. “People have dental caries, teeth have caries lesions.”

Comments: Spelling mistakes

Despite I am not an English native speaker, I see some spelling mistakes in the text (e.g. “cvitated” instead of “cavitated” line 26 in background chapter; “therapeutics sealants” must be “therapeutic sealants”).

The text needs to be double-checked and corrected.

Response:

The spelling and grammar of the manuscript were reviewed and corrected by an English native speaker.

Comments-Methods and Results and Tables
The authors described the profile of the five examiners in the revised version, but the text is not easy to follow: the authors successively described examiner 1; 4; 5; 2; 3. It would be more pertinent in the methods to change the number associated to each examiner. In other words; 1 stays 1; 4 should be 2; 5 should be 3; 2 should be 4 and 3 should be 5. Of course, tables must be rearranged.

- Tables must be rearranged according to the previous comment.

Response:

The numbering of the examiners was rearranged in the methods and results section

Comment-References

- Ref 27: please remove the capital letters in the title “Association Between Visual Inspection, Caries Activity Status, and Radiography with Treatment Decisions on Approximal Caries in Primary Molars.”

- Ref 28: idem in “A Systematic Review”

Response:

References corrected