Reviewer's report

Title: THE PAIN COLOUR OF CHILDREN WITH TOOTHACHE IN TURKISH POPULATION

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Kamran Ali

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting this manuscript to BMC Oral Health. Several issues need to be addressed prior to considering this manuscript for publication.

Throughout the manuscript the authors have stated "The main source of expressing pain for children is the parents or caregivers"

This is not appropriate and should be replaced with "Most children expressed their pain through their parents or carers"

This change would need to be made throughout the manuscript.

Abstract (Methods): Page 2 "Patients aged between 4 and 14 and referred to dentist" should be referred to a dentist

Methods:

a. It is not clear how the sample size was calculated for this study? Did the authors carry out a power analysis prior to commencing the study to assess the sample size for identification of significant differences? If not, this needs to be mentioned a limitation of the study
b. Under the sample (first paragraph) the authors state "referred to dentist for the first time due to toothache with a short-term pain of 1 month caused by deep cavities in teeth were included in the study". Referred to dentist should be referred to a dentist 1 month should be replaced by up to 1 month

Discussion:

a. The discussion has a fair amount of repetition of the results which needs to be avoided. Instead focus on interpreting the results in the light of the existing literature on the subject
b. The discussion may be improved by providing a more convincing argument to use colour in children primarily as a means of communicating pain to the dentist.
c. The authors may also need to emphasise that although colour can serve as an adjunct in the assessment of pain in children, it does not substitute objective diagnosis for treatment planning which should be based on a meticulous clinical examination and investigations including appropriate radiographs.

d. How do the authors justify the use of colour in the absence of any correlation with the visual analogue scale? Does it only serve to show the presence or absence of pain?

Figures

Figure 2: The words seem to have been picked up as a typographic error by the Word programme and underlined in red; this needs to be corrected

**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.

No

**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

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