Reviewer’s report

Title: The anticaries effects of pit and fissure sealant in the first permanent molars of school-age children from Guangzhou: a population-based cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 02 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Vinay Pitchika

Reviewer's report:

Now, the manuscript is much clearer to read, but there are few minor comments.

1. Page 7, line 10: It should be Secondary outcomes were mean DMFT ……
2. Page 7, line 26: Is it multi-level mixed effects model or random-effects model? You have patient ID and school level as random effects, but have also adjusted for sex district area. Which are usually considered as fixed effects. So this makes it a mixed-effects model. Or?
3. In such a large study, adjusting only for sex and district is not sufficient. Socio-economic status has to be considered as a variable, which usually acts as a confounder for most of the associations. Not having or adjusting this variable is one the drawbacks. Now that the authors have added limitations section, it might be better to include socio-economic status among the list of variables mentioned in the limitations. Furthermore, a statement on residual confounding can be included as the extensive adjustments were not made.
4. Figure 1: Second box: Please mention about the missing 2000 participants. If they were lost to follow-up, mention it. Please make sure all the numbers tally.
5. Figure 1: Second box, Line 2: children had…. instead of children dad…
6. Figure 1: A minor change: There are drop-out boxes with 938 and 1364 children. The arrows of these boxes must be in the opposite direction, which indicate out of the flow. Currently, it shows drop-outs, but looks like the participants are added into the study flow.
7. Figure 1: The arrows for the last box are also in the wrong direction.

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:

Acceptable

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