Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and dental effects of Ebiino, (infant oral mutilation) among 3-5-year old children from a rural district in Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Taro Kusama

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Comments to the Authors

The authors investigated the prevalence of loss of primary canine teeth among children, which is due to traditional remedy called "Ebino". They revealed that the proportion of loss of primary canine was higher than that of other teeth. I think this kind of descriptive study which includes historical and anthropological view is also important for oral science. However, I have following concerns.

1) The authors submitted the manuscript without the number of the line, so please add the number for precise revising.

2) The manuscript was not written well in English as academic paper. There is several grammatical mistake and miss wording. I recommend the authors to use English proofreading.

3) In introduction section, the authors mentioned background and what is known about present study. However, they did not mention what is unknown. There is a gap between 6th paragraph and 7th paragraph (page 5). They need to add some explanation.

4) In method section, the authors did not mention the period study. They should clearly sentence it.

5) They have made random sampling for present study. However, they did not reveal the size of population before sampling procedure had been done, and after sampling, the number of participants who were not included in study due to inclusion criteria or declination was not also mentioned. It is recommended that they should have written the flow-chart of recruiting participants with numbers or presented in figure.

6) The authors estimated the sample size which is needed by as follows. "The study population for the larger study had been calculated with the assumption that children below 6 years in the sub-County was below 10,000 and the prevalence of caries among them to average 50%, a 95% confidence level being considered and 5% degree of accuracy. This gave the number of participants to be 384." However, the purpose of this procedure is not clear for readers. Please,
clarify the reason why they used the average prevalence of caries used for calculation and what the sample size is enough to estimate for.

7) For statistical analysis, the authors used Pearson's correlation coefficient and Spearman's Correlation coefficient. However, the result was presented in cross table, and they compared the proportion between groups, so Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test is appropriate for statistical test.

8) The author included the socio-demographic data in questionnaire, so the authors should also discuss the result of present study from the socio-demographic view if it is possible. Then, more insightful discussion would be realized.

9) For figure 1, there is several categories was presented in legend. However, I cannot see the most of color of categories in bar graph. The authors should simplify the bar graph by deleting the category including a few number of observation.

10) In figure 1, vertical axis in graph is percentage. However, the scale of axis is ranged 0 to 6. Is it correct? Please, confirm it.

11) In this study, the authors categorized "missing due to other reason," and they regarded it as the result due to "Ebino". However, there is the possibility that it was caused by other reasons. Please, clarify this point and if it is needed, please, mention in discussion section.

12) The authors did not include the limitation of this study. They should mention it including bias of this study.

13) They sentenced one of the aims of present study is to "possibly determine how the results could influence intervention strategies for the community." However, I cannot see any paragraphs which mentioned this point clearly in result or discussion sections. Please, add paragraph or explanation.

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.

Unable to assess

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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