Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of dental treatment and age on salivary cortisol and alpha-amylase levels of patients with varying degrees of dental anxiety

Version: 2 Date: 23 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Andre Wannemueller

Reviewer's report:

For this second revision, the authors made a fair effort and provided feedback on how they addressed all issues raised by the reviewer. I believe the manuscript has benefited from revisions. But, there are still two remaining main concerns.

1.) Based on their findings the authors conclude that anticipatory heart rate increase is an indicator of dental anxiety but may be absent in dental phobia. What are the theoretical thoughts that underly this assumption? All models of phobic fear (as well as diagnostic criteria) suggest that sympathetic activation is a key component of phobic fear (see Wannemueller et al., 2017 for a description and theoretical classification of psychophysiological responses in dental phobic individuals and those who were remitted after psychological treatment). The authors should consider other reasons for their observation that are far more likely such as flaws in the diagnostic instruments they used. For example the Frankl scale only considers the clinicians' evaluation disregarding the levels of subjective fear of the participants.

2.) The discussion section still lacks of any recommendations concerning possible clinical applications of the reported findings. How can future child dental treatent benefit from the findings reported here?

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.

No

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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