Reviewer’s report

Title: Age estimation in three distinct East Asian population groups using southern Han Chinese dental reference dataset

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

No - there are minor issues

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
Dear editor,

Thank you for the invitation to review the manuscript "Age estimation in three distinct East Asian population groups using southern Han Chinese dental reference dataset". This is an interesting study about age estimation of three different Asian populations, using a Han Chinese dental reference dataset. Overall, it was detected that this dataset may estimate properly the age of Japanese individuals, but caution should be used when estimation individuals from Thailand and Philippines. However, few aspects of the Methods section need to be properly expressed in order to be further considered for publication. Despite of that, the study is well-written and very informative.

BACKGROUND

* In order to increase the readability, I believe the 3rd paragraph should be the 1st one of the Background section.

* I miss the objective of the present study.

METHODS

* Table 1 and Figure 1 are repetitive. Although the map is an interesting way to illustrate the sample distribution, the Table may illustrates this matter more appropriately.

* The calibration process, per se, must be explained in details. Moreover, it is not clear what the interexaminer reproducibility is. Was the examiner (JJ) calibrated with a standard examiner?

* For each individual, was the dental age estimation attributed only once? How the reference dataset was used in the present study, when attributing the age estimation? The whole process of dental age estimation need further clarification.
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

None.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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