Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiological characteristic of Orofacial Clefts and its associated congenital anomalies. Retrospective study

Version: 1 Date: 04 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Abdolreza Jamilian

Reviewer's report:

This study is an Epidemiological study of orofacial clefts. I believe this is an interesting topic for literature; however, some major revision would improve the article.

The overall language of the text is relatively vague. Sentences such as "This population-based retrospective study on data from the RTDC and IMER between 2001 and 2014." This sentence does not have a verb and in some other places this manuscript is suffering from lack of verbs. There are also errors with punctuations, spaces. English of the article needs major revision by a Native speaker. The style was different from whole manuscript. Furthermore, each section is not relevant structured.

Summary:
No information exists according to clinical management in conclusion section.

Background segment in abstract is not enough. It should present a brief background on the subject, here is just the aim of the study written instead. The background segment contains very little about the actual background of the study and related researches instead it's filled with information that belong to materials and methods. The two recent published article are recommended in this section:
Family history and risk factors for cleft lip and palate patients and their associated anomalies: Stomatologija, Baltic Dental and Maxillofacial Journal, 2017, Vol. 19, No. 3

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the relationship among gender, ethnicity, and citizenship and to delineate a topographic and more specific phenotypical distribution of oral cleft (OC) and the various congenital malformations associated with it" should come at the end of the background section not in the middle of the text.

Results
Please clarify the following sentence in result section" The research identified a total amount of 739 cases on a complete population of 709,068 total births" What is the 0.68 birth? Is it a ratio? Please clarify it. There are a lot of these meaningless phrases

Tables are not well structured and also are within the manuscript, and some without a suitable legend. Tables should be sent as separate files or at least at the end of manuscript.

Furthermore in table 4 it doesn't manifest data in order to have 100% percentage in columns or rows or even in one box as a total. Diagrams are not clearly understandable and their writing parts are not in English!
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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.