Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 10 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Azeez Butali

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting addition to the epidemiology of OFC and brings additional data that is worth considering for CPO. However, I have some concerns that should be considered:

The focus of the work is on epidemiology of OFC in Italians and others where excluded from the prevalence estimates. So why spend some much time writing about the foreign individuals in the discussion. I think the last paragraph on page 15 and the entire page 16 are mere distractions and add no value to the paper other than provide a lengthen discussion that is not related to the aim of the paper.

Authors should consider rewording the conclusion since it insinuates that the immigration is contributing to the high rate of clefts and not necessary telling us the implication of the Italian estimate with regards to cleft care, research into etiology and prevention

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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