Author’s response to reviews

Title: Adaptation and validation of the PEDSQLTM Oral Health Scale for toddlers in Chilean population

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Author’s response to reviews:

Michaela Goodwin
Associate Editor
BMC Oral Health

Thank you for the invitation to resubmit our manuscript “Adaptation and validation of the PEDSQLTM Oral Health Scale for toddlers in Chilean population”

Below is the reviewer’s final general comment, followed by our response and additions or modifications in the manuscript. These modifications in response to comments are highlighted in blue throughout the paper to facilitate your review.
We appreciate the opportunity to improve this final aspect of our paper, and agree it is a better and more accurate wording.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER PAUL ALLISON

General Comment

The authors have addressed my previous concerns. I have only one further comment. In their proposed revision to the text the authors refer to the instrument not having been tested to discriminate between all (oral) pathologies experienced by the target group, and they cite malocclusion and traumatic dental injuries as examples. While the overall statement is true and is fine to be included in the manuscript text, so called "malocclusion" is not a pathology, rather it is simply a variation on the norm and is a clinician defined phenomenon. I suggest using the word "condition" rather than pathology or to remove "malocclusion" as an example, which in any case is not a good example to use in the age group evaluated in this study.

Our response:

We appreciate the reviewer’s remark, which is right. We have modified it consequently throughout the text:

Background, page 3, line 52: “Oral health is an integral part of general health, and oral conditions such as dental caries, gingivitis, malocclusions or traumatic dental injuries can affect the life...”

Background, page 4, line 81: “…which allows to monitor the impact of oral conditions on the quality of life of pre-school children.”

Material and Methods, page 8, line 193: “… presence or absence of oral conditions (caries, traumatic dental injuries and/or malocclusion) and …”
Discussion, page 13, line 284: “These good results are explained by the participants' characteristics, since 54% of the children were free of oral conditions”

Discussion, page 15, line 340: “It was therefore quite homogeneous in socio-economic terms. In addition, being a community-based sample, not all conditions were well represented”

Discussion, page 15, line 343: “Further research is needed in other settings to explore the ability of the instrument to discriminate between certain degrees of these conditions”. 