Author’s response to reviews

Title: Assessment of risk factors for early childhood caries at different ages in Shandong, China and reflections on oral health education: a cross-sectional study

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Assessment of risk factors for early childhood caries at different ages in Shandong, China and reflections on oral health education: a cross-sectional study
Meng Zhang; Xinyue Zhang; Yuan Zhang; Yanan Li; Chunchun Shao; Shijiang Xiong; Jing Lan; Zhifeng Wang.
BMC Oral Health

Dear Prof. Mohammad Reza Khami

Thank you very much your considering our manuscript for potential publication, and thank you very much for your careful review. We have revised the manuscript according to your comments, here is the point-by-point response letter. Thank you very much!
In addition, I would like to mention that "Cheeloo College of Medicine" must be added to the affiliation according to the latest notification from our college, so we added it in the affiliation. And the “*” in the author list indicates the co-corresponding authors.
Lines 37 and 38: “Complete artificial feeding within 6 months of birth primarily contributed to the high ECC risk of the 3-year-old group” (OR: 0.28, 95% CI: 0.12-0.69)” Moreover, it is better to reverse the OR and CI figures (1 divided by the figures), to be more informative. As you mentioned, the OR value greater than 1 can better demonstrate these caries-related risk factors. And we analyzed the feeding method variable (Q3) and found that children who had been completely fed artificially had the lowest rate of caries. Therefore, the complete artificial feeding was set as a control in multivariable logistic regression analysis (Table 3 and 4), this way we can get data with OR &gt; 1. Due to the adjustment of control group in Q3 variable, some of the values in the model have changed (Table 3 and 4), and we’ve revised them accordingly in the manuscript, including lines 38-40 (Abstract section, page 2) and 230-234 (Results section, page 11). Thank you very much!
Line 40: remove “Interestedly”.
Line 139: “mainly obtained”
Lines 170 and 171: “…respectively (see Table 1), while 96.4% of decayed teeth (n=810) in ECC-group had remained to be treated”.
Line 196: “the lower was the rate of dental caries”
Thank you very much! We have revised them in the manuscript (Abstract section, line 42, page 2; Methods section, line 139, page 7; Results section, lines 170 and 196, pages 8-9).
Line 222: report corresponded OR and CI.
We added the corresponding OR and CI value in lines 222-223 (Results section, page 11).
Line 231: “compared to”
Line 249: “…67.8% and 73.9%...”. “(50.8%, 63.6%, and...”.
Thank you very much! We have revised them in the manuscript (Results section, lines 231 and 250-251, pages 11-12).
Lines 322-325: the original reference (Edward Lo) should be cited here. Also add something about fluoridated toothpaste as it is really important in preventing dental caries.
We have revised them in lines 324 and 327 according to your comments (Discussion section, page 15).
The reference list is too long. Please remove outdated and less relevant references.
Thank you very much! We’ve removed those outdated and less relevant references.
Title of tables 1 and 2: full stop after (n=1301).
Please specify the name of the statistical methods in the footnote of the tables 1 &amp; 2.
Thank you very much! We have revised them in Table 1 and 2.