Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 14 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Prathip Phantumvanit

Reviewer's report:

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M&M: should be more explanation on how the sample size of the samples in each age group were derived, this will help to power of the conclusion of the study.

Even though the caries criteria of this study using WHO method but other caries classification such as ICDAS is more accurate especially in term of early caries lesions since the questionnaires were important for the results and discussion of this study therefore there should be more detail on how the questionnaires were derived from the parents especially as retrospective study there should be clarification whether the analysis of the data in each age group using the caries free subjects as control and the ECC subjects as the study group to compare the OHE questionnaires in each age group, this is important to discriminate the risk factors of the ECC and the control (caries free)

Results: it's complicate to relate with the questionnaires number but rather grouping into important risk factors such as sugar intake, toothbrushing or oral hygiene, fluoride exposure, etc. Discussion: when there was some irregular result such as toothbrushing and caries in this study there should be more explanation for the differences such as different food ingredients or behaviors which would be more reasonable to convince the readers then.
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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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