Reviewer’s report

Title: Matrix metalloproteinases gene variants and dental caries in Czech children

Version: 1 Date: 18 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Edward Lo

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is a revised version of an earlier report on a study to assess the relationship between MMP gene variants and caries status of children in Czech. The authors have addressed most of the comments from the reviewers but I still have some suggestions for improvement.

My comments are as follows:

1) Abstract - the conclusion statement should mention Czech children, as in the study aim.

2) Introduction - I cannot find the added study hypothesis (authors' reply to Q11 of Reviewer 2). The stated aim of the study (page 3, last paragraph) is "… to determine genotypes in these SNPs in Czech children with primary/permanent dentitions." but the conclusion statement (page 8, last paragraph) is "… lack of association between the selected MMPs gene variants and susceptibility to or severity of dental caries in both primary/permanent dentitions." There is a mismatch. The study aim/objective needs to be reformulated to match the conclusion, or vice versa.

3) The authors can further enhance the English language use during the revision.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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