Reviewer’s report

Title: “It’s really no more difficult than putting on fluoride varnish”: A qualitative exploration of dental professionals’ views of silver diamine fluoride for the management of carious lesions in children

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jul 2020

Reviewer's report:

General comments: This paper remains a potential contribution to the related field. But the authors failed to interpret the data appropriately. Major revision should be done before publication.

Introduction:
1. The introduction is thin. The authors should provide more information about the silver diamine fluoride, such as the mechanisms of SDF in arresting caries (line 32).

Methods
1. The authors should provide the inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants recruitment.
2. The authors should justify why the dental professionals including the dental nurses were interviewed? Why do you want to compare the perceptions between the dentists and dental nurses? What is the implication?
3. In line 31, who are the potential participants?
4. Please justify the development of the codebook.

Results
1. Please justify the validity of the data if the interview duration ranged from 10 to 35 minutes.
2. Please provide more details of the participants' characteristics. For example, gender, age, education level, or SDF application experience (Yes or no).
3. The authors should re-do the data analysis. Although this is a descriptive study, the results should be reported according to categories, themes or core category, which reflect the pattern of data.

In this study, the results were reported according to the following items, including DPs' perceptions about using SDF in practice/DPs' perceived advantages of SDF/DPs' perceived disadvantages and barriers of SDF/DPs' perceived enablers of SDF use, which were the research questions, but not the categories or theme of the data. The authors should grouped the codes into categories or themes and report different dimensions of the research question.

Discussion
1. Please discuss the limitations of the study.
2. In page 17, please explain why "the patients values and expectations are likely to be similar across the whole population".

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No

**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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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