Reviewer’s report

Title: Application of a three-session-procedure based on experiential learning in a tooth brushing course for Chinese dental students

Version: 0 Date: 16 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Yen-Lin Chiu

Reviewer's report:

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Introduction

1. The theories and concepts relating to TSP and EL need to be deeply and completely introduced to provide the theoretical rationale for the research purposes and assumptions.

2. In addition to the research purposes, the research hypotheses should be clearly described and proposed.

Methods:

1. The details regarding the demographics of the participants need to be further described. For example: gender.

2. Please further introduce the "Plaque Control Record". What did it record?

3. Please identify why the non-parameter statistical analyses were conducted.

Results

1. Please give more descriptions for the results presented in the figures.

2. I wonder how the alpha coefficient for reliability (0.954) was calculated. Is it for the whole instrument including three parts? I wonder how the reliability of knowledge test with true or false answers was estimated.
3. Please elaborate the following sentences: 1) Most of the participants obtained more than 88% in efficiency. 2) Self-enhancement was supportive in providing helpful advice and making new plans to the family members and friends.

4. In table 2, please clarify the difference between use and intent to electric toothbrush.

Discussion

1. I am totally confused by the discussion. Many sentences should be further modified or elaborated. For example: 1) The selection of tooth brushing method is different for different individuals. 2) 27.27% of the students showed noticed difference when using manual or electric toothbrushes.

2. According to your findings, I wonder how you get this result "As compared with a manual toothbrush, the electric toothbrush was widely accepted".

3. The discussion should be interpreted based on the findings of this research rather than your own assumption. For example: The convenience, high efficiency, and comfort could be the possible reasons for their selection.

Conclusions

1. I wonder if the research questions which you proposed have been answered according to your research findings. Please clarify if this intervention can effectively improve students' tooth brushing and evaluation.

2. In conclusion, I wonder what the main purpose of this study. Did you intend to detect the effectiveness of the educational intervention or the differences between the two kind of tooth brushing techniques?

Writing

1. Many sentences need to be modified or elaborated. For example: (page 5) The traditional methods for oral health education in China may not be adequate. This is a unclear sentence and needs to be elaborated. That is, there is a need to explain why the traditional methods is not adequate for oral health education in China. Another example: Please explain why the modified bass technique is difficult for children and elders.
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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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