Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparing oral health in patients with different levels of dental anxiety

Authors:

Alexander Zinke (alexander_zinke@posteo.de)

Christian Hannig (christian.hannig@uniklinikum-dresden.de)

Hendrik Berth (hendrik.berth@uniklinikum-dresden.de)

Version: 1 Date: 12 Oct 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Reviewers,

I am pleased to submit a revised copy of the original research article entitled “Comparing oral health in patients with different levels of dental anxiety” by Prof. Dr. Christian Hannig, Prof. Dr. Hendrik Berth and myself for consideration for publication in the Journal of Head & Face Medicine. All remarks have been corrected as wished and can be viewed as tracked changes in the document.

Reviewer #1:

1) Abstract and results.

There is no p value 0.000. This is due to the used statistics program SPSS as this program does not give results like < or >. It should read p < 0.0001.

- This is correct and should have been noticed by me. All p values written “0.000” have been corrected to read “p < 0.0001”.

2) Introduction

The authors should clearly differentiate between dental anxiety and dental phobia. They mention it, but they do not clearly distinguish it. May be this helps: Sartory, G., & Wannemuller, A. (2010). Zahnbehandlungsphobie. Hogrefe- Verlag &
The reviewer is missing data about dental phobic patients. Or do the authors mean patients with high anxiety = phobic patients? This is related to the introduction.

- A clear differentiation and explanation has been added to lines 69-75. Both, dental anxiety and phobia, are linked, however represent very different stages. In our study we only have patients participating with different levels of anxiety.

3) Material and Methods

In the statistic section it is not mentioned whether the data have been tested for normality. This is a prerequisite for using the ANOVA test. If there is no normal distribution the ANOVA test would be obsolete.

- Using Kolmogorov-Smirnov, not all parameters gave normality. However, One-Way ANOVA is proven to be very resistant to a violation of normality. Especially with larger number of samples as used in our study. Citations to sources can be found in the References [19,20,21,22].

Reviewer #2:

Comments to Authors:

4) Background, line 69; "Dental phobia is, according to the ICD-10 classification ……"

Please explain the "ICD-10 classification".

- The ICD-10 classification has now been specified in the revised paper. It is classified as a Phobic anxiety disorder under F40.0 in the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases. The revision can be found in lines 70-73.

5) Method,

* Is there informed consent from the patients or IRB approval, please mention it.

* What are the inclusion/exclusion criteria of the sample?

- In our study, inclusions were: Patients in dental clinics before treatment, Patients age had to be 18 or above, a sufficient knowledge of the German language, a physical and mental ability
to complete the questionnaires, oriented in place and time, written informed consent to participate had to be given to be included in the study, no display of psychiatric symptoms. This has been added/corrected to the revised paper.

6) Discussion,

Please clarify this sentence: "Our thesis that patients with a higher anxiety of dental treatment have worse oral hygiene than patients which do not have this level of anxiety was partially confirmed." No conclusion sentences should be written early in scientific articles. Also there are some limitations of the study that are unknown socio-economic status of persons and the lack of investigation of oral hygiene habits.

- The Discussion has been rearranged as well as changed in some parts to not state conclusion sentences so early. The different limitations have been updated and corrected.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your helping and productive criticism of our study, we hope to have answered and corrected any remarks to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Alexander Zinke