Reviewer’s report

Title: Seeking adverse effects in systematic reviews of orthodontic interventions: protocol for a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 01 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Doreen Allen Kahangire

Reviewer's report:

Interesting study by the authors, but a few questions to ensure clarity are listed below;

1. The protocol indicates that AEs in orthodontics interventions are sought, however it is unclear why SRs of adverse events of interventions are excluded entirely?

2. Is the population of interest adults or paediatrics or both?

3. What is the rationale for the time-frame of SRs published between 2009 to 2018?

4. Unclear if both English and non-English are included; if only English, have the authors considered selective reporting or publication bias?

5. Exposure time may impact on the rate of AEs reported; how do the authors intend to minimize differences in exposure time of these interventions used across the studies especially where data pooling will be undertaken.

6. What is the criteria for the choice of the 5 leading orthodontic journals chosen/selected? I.e. based on impact factor, etc or otherwise?

7. Line 224: "Authors suspect of multiple publications of the same systematic review will be contacted" - What is the rationale of this at the first instance? Also, how do the authors intend to choose which review of the multiple publication to choose without compromising consistency in study selection?

8. Line 247 "We will also score additional adverse effects of orthodontic interventions that are identified..." What do the authors mean by 'score'? i.e. do the authors anticipate to "weight" the AEs or otherwise?

9. Are there any differences or similarities across the 5 leading journals relative to how AEs are reported or otherwise? If so, how does this impact on the potential generalisability of the study results?

10. Lines 310 and 311: In this research study we will assess whether adverse effects were sought and reported in both Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews of orthodontic interventions. Do the authors intend to include relatively similar number of these reviews to allow for a fair comparison
between the Cochrane vs non-Cochrane or otherwise?

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable

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None

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No