Review of: "Socioeconomic and behavioural determinants of oral health in 6- and 7-year-old schoolchildren from Palermo (Sicily)"

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This epidemiological study had sufficient sample size and provided data regarding the oral health condition of school children in Palermo.

Unfortunately, essential information regarding how the study was conducted and the main findings were missing. Grammar and English writing need to be sharpen up as well. Major revision is required before the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

Abstract

1. *Typos:*

Caries and periodontal diseases are highly neglected**diseases…** (same error in 1st sentence of introduction).

*2. "*To date none studies reported epidemiological data of 6–7-year-old-italian-children-population."

The above sentence is not true. The epidemiological data of Italy can be found on World Health Organization (WHO) Global Oral Health Program in the Malmö University website (https://capp.mau.se/country-areas/). Please rewrite the sentence and discuss the findings in the introduction/ discussion.

Introduction

1. Concrete data and references should be used to explain

- … Why caries and periodontal diseases are highly neglected
- … how prevalent are caries and periodontal diseases among school children(global data)
- … why both diseases can cause significant public health problems

2. The aim of this survey was to describe the dental and periodontal health status…

please further elaborate the aim… describe the prevalence? severity?

3. To evaluate the association between socioeconomic determinants and behavioral habits …**with caries prevalence?**

Material and Methods

1. How were the public schools selected? Any randomization?

2. Was the questionnaire being verified and tested?

3. Any calibrations between examination? What were the intra/inter-examiner reliability?

4. Community Periodontal Index reference was missing

5. What caries risk factors were evaluated? Please list them out

6. What statistical methods were used to identify the significant risk factors?

Results

1. The results in general were very brief. The following should be presented in detail, better in table format

- caries prevalence at each district

- the risk factor (number of exposure and control, odds ratio, 95% CI and p-value)

2. Any regression analyses performed to evaluate potential confounders?

3. Where are the results for CPI?

Conclusion

1. The subheading "Conclusions" should be changed to "Discussion"

2. References are needed for paragraph 1

3. The situation of periodontal condition was not discussed

4. Directions for further research, strength and limitations of the study should also be discussed and mentioned