

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below. Some articles will have been accepted based in part or entirely on reviews undertaken for other BMJ Group journals. These will be reproduced where possible.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Developing an Index for the Orthodontic Treatment Need in Pediatric Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnea: A Protocol for a Novel Communication Tool between Physicians and Orthodontists
AUTHORS	Altalibi, Mostafa; Saltaji, Humam; Roduta Roberts, Mary; Major, Michael; Maclean, Joanna; Major, Paul

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Villa Maria Pia La Sapienza University Rome Italy
REVIEW RETURNED	03-Jun-2014

GENERAL COMMENTS	This paper introduce to a very interesting project in pediatric OSA. Identify patients that can benefit most from orthodontic treatment is very important and there are no easy indexes to use untill now. This is a very promising project
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REVIEWER	Huynh, Nelly Université de Montréal Canada
REVIEW RETURNED	30-Jun-2014

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This protocol aims to develop a tool that could be easily used by any health care professional to referral for orthodontic treatment in pediatric obstructive sleep apnea management. This index would greatly improve multidiscipline collaboration and improve patient care. However, the protocol could be improved by following the template for protocol guidelines, e.g. WHO website: http://www.who.int/rpc/research_ethics/format_rp/en/. Not enough details are given regarding the overall study design and methodology, which raises questions on the applicability and reproducibility of this index.</p> <p>Statistical analyses were included directly in each section of the methods. However, no data analyses or statistical analyses are described for the IDG meeting or the external review group.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

• Reviewer 1: Dr. Villa Maria Pia, University of Rome, Italy

“This paper introduce to a very interesting project in pediatric OSA. Identify patients that can benefit most from orthodontic treatment is very important and there are no easy indexes to use until now. This is a very promising project”

Response: We thank the reviewer for her feedback and share her enthusiasm for this research.

• Reviewer 2: Dr. Nelly Huynh, University of Montreal, Canada

“This protocol aims to develop a tool that could be easily used by any health care professional to referral for orthodontic treatment in pediatric obstructive sleep apnea management. This index would greatly improve multidiscipline collaboration and improve patient care.”

Response: We thank the reviewer for her feedback and share her enthusiasm for this research.

“the protocol could be improved by following the template for protocol guidelines, e.g. WHO website: http://www.who.int/rpc/research_ethics/format_rp/en/.”

Response: We appreciate the suggestion; the website presents information on the “Recommended format for a Research Protocol” according to the WHO, which is slightly different from the format that the BMJ requires for its protocols. As such, we have maintained the formatting according to the BMJ standards.

“Not enough details are given regarding the overall study design and methodology, which raises questions on the applicability and reproducibility of this index.”

Response: The reviewer has raised a very important point, as such we have included the following sections in the manuscript:

“This research is classified as an applied interdisciplinary medical research. The overall study design involves components of qualitative analysis and quantitative analysis. The qualitative components comprise focus groups and committee meetings. The quantitative components comprise reliability tests and a cross sectional validity test.”

“Statistical analyses were included directly in each section of the methods. However, no data analyses or statistical analyses are described for the IDG meeting or the external review group.”

Response: That is correct, as per WHO guidelines, the Index Development Group Meeting and the External Review Meeting are both treated as qualitative studies, with qualitative feedback, and no need for statistical analysis.