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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNHM-061

Title: ORAL HABITS AND DENTAL OCCLUSION DISORDERS IN SCHOOLCHILDREN IN NORTHEASTERN MEXICO

Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

✓ Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study:

- The research addresses a pertinent issue in pediatric dentistry regarding the association between oral habits and malocclusion.
- The sample size of 150 children is reasonable for a cross-sectional study.
- The methodology includes both questionnaire data and clinical examination, providing a mixed approach to data collection.
- The study highlights important findings about the prevalence of molar classifications and their relation to oral habits, contributing regional data to the existing literature.
- The findings emphasizing early detection and management are clinically relevant and reinforce the importance of interdisciplinary approaches.

Weaknesses of the Study:

- The cross-sectional design limits the ability to infer causality between habits and malocclusion.
- The sample is geographically restricted to the Monterrey Metropolitan Area, which may limit generalizability.
- The statistical analysis appears limited; some associations are described as trends without robust significance, and the p-values are marginal.
- The assessment of habits relies on parental reports, which may be subject to bias or inaccuracies.
- Ethical approval details, including approval number and specific ethical considerations, are not explicitly provided.
- The presentation and organization could be improved for clarity, especially in the results section.
- Minor typographical and grammatical issues are present throughout the manuscript.

Reviewer Comments:

- **Title and Abstract**: The title is concise and informative. The abstract effectively summarizes the aims, methods, and main findings. However, clearer language around the significance of the associations would enhance clarity.
- **Introduction and Objectives**: The introduction adequately contextualizes the problem but could benefit from a clearer and more focused statement of the specific study objectives.

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- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis**: The methodology mentions the use of a validated questionnaire and clinical evaluation, but details about how validation was achieved are lacking. The statistical analysis appears basic; more sophisticated analyses (e.g., logistic regression) could strengthen findings.
- **Results and Discussion**: Results are presented with appropriate tables but could be expanded to include confidence intervals. The discussion appropriately references regional differences but should critically evaluate the limitations.
- **Conclusion and Implications**: The conclusions are supported by the data but should explicitly note limitations regarding causality and generalizability.
- **Ethical Clearance**: The manuscript states that ethical approval was obtained but lacks specific details such as the approval number or the approving body.
- **Language and Formatting**: The manuscript contains minor grammatical errors and awkward phrasing; editing for clarity and professionalism is recommended.
- **Tables/References**: Tables are clear, but referencing style is inconsistent; adhere to journal formatting standards.

Note: Based on a thorough review, there is no indication that this manuscript has been previously published online or in print. However, a formal similarity check using plagiarism detection software is recommended before final acceptance to confirm originality.