

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNHM-168

Title: *Prevalence of traumatic injuries in permanent teeth in relation to age, gender and predisposing factors among 6–12 age school children in Al Najaf City.*

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's Name: Mr Sahil Srivastava

Detailed Reviewer's Report

General Comments

The manuscript addresses an important public-health and pediatric dentistry issue by assessing traumatic dental injuries among schoolchildren aged 6–12 years in Al Najaf City. The study includes 600 children, clinical examination, classification of trauma, causes, treatment status, and associations with age and gender. The topic is relevant and the results may contribute useful local epidemiological information.

However, major revision is required, particularly because of inconsistencies in participant numbers, age categories, reporting of prevalence, methodology, statistical presentation, and language.

Major Comments

1. Major inconsistency in sample gender distribution. -The Abstract states that the sample consisted of 300 males and 300 females, whereas the Results report 302 males and 298 females. Table 1 also reports 302 males and 298 females. The authors should correct this inconsistency throughout the manuscript.
2. Prevalence statement in the Abstract is incorrect/unclear. - The statement “*TDI was found in 600 of samples 6.67%*” is contradictory. The Results and Table 3 indicate that 40 of 600 children had TDI (6.67%). This should be corrected clearly in the Abstract.
3. Age-group inconsistency requires correction. - The study population is described as 6–12 years, with groups 6–9 and 10–12 years. However, Table 5 uses 5–9 and 10–14 years, which does not correspond to the stated study population. This is a significant reporting error and must be corrected.
4. Sampling methodology is insufficiently described. - The manuscript states that government and private schools were included and classes were randomly selected, but the exact sampling procedure, number of schools, school selection method, and basis for sample-size calculation are not adequately presented. These details should be provided to allow reproducibility.

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5. Ethical information should be strengthened. - The manuscript mentions Institutional Ethical Committee approval and consent but does not provide the ethics approval/reference number or clearly distinguish parental/guardian consent from children's assent. This information should be added.
6. Examiner calibration/reliability is not reported.- Four trained pediatric dentists performed the examinations, but there is no information about examiner calibration, inter-examiner agreement, or reliability testing. This is important in an epidemiological dental trauma study and should be reported.
7. Clinical diagnostic limitations should be acknowledged. - The authors explicitly state that neither vitality testing nor radiographs were used. This may affect identification or characterization of some traumatic injuries and should be acknowledged as a limitation.
8. Statistical methods require clearer description. - The manuscript reports t-tests and Fisher's exact tests but does not adequately explain the statistical methods, assumptions, software used, significance threshold, or whether the variables met the assumptions for the tests used.
9. Table 2 requires clarification. - The outcome "number of teeth affected" is presented using means and standard deviations with a t-test. Given the small trauma-positive subgroup and bounded count data, the rationale for the statistical test should be explained.
10. Table 7 interpretation should be carefully presented. - A significant association is reported between trauma type and cause of trauma (Fisher exact $p = 0.005$). Because some cells contain very small numbers, the authors should explain the analysis and avoid overinterpreting individual percentages.
11. Results and Discussion should distinguish statistical significance from descriptive differences. - Several statements describe one group as "higher" than another although the reported statistical tests are not significant. The wording should clearly distinguish descriptive findings from statistically significant associations.
12. Limitations section is missing. - A dedicated limitations section should be added, addressing the cross-sectional design, single-city setting, school-based sampling, clinical examination without radiographs/vitality testing, possible selection bias, and lack of examiner reliability data.

Minor Comments

1. The title should be grammatically revised. Suggested wording: "Prevalence of Traumatic Dental Injuries in Permanent Teeth in Relation to Age, Gender, and Predisposing Factors among 6–12-Year-Old Schoolchildren in Al Najaf City."
2. Use "traumatic dental injuries (TDI)" consistently instead of switching between TDI and TDA.

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3. The Abstract requires substantial English-language editing.
4. There are numerous grammatical and spacing errors throughout the manuscript, including phrases such as “6-12 age school children,” “higher thanmale,” and “resultsexhibited.”
5. Page 4 contains a section of reversed/mirrored text, which must be corrected before publication.
6. The numbering/formatting around the Discussion section is inconsistent; “4. Discussion” appears after Table 9 and should be formatted consistently with the other headings.
7. The manuscript should consistently use “children” or “schoolchildren” rather than “subjects” where appropriate.
8. The Results should report exact n and percentage consistently and avoid ambiguous statements.
9. The phrase “*only 9 cases were treated*” should be presented as 9/40 trauma-positive children (22.5%), making the denominator explicit.
10. The Discussion appropriately compares findings with previous studies, but the comparisons should include more explanation of why prevalence may differ between populations.
11. References should be checked for uniform formatting and completeness.

Overall Assessment

The manuscript addresses a relevant epidemiological problem and contains useful data from 600 schoolchildren. The study has potential value because it reports the prevalence, trauma pattern, causes, affected teeth, and treatment status in children from Al Najaf City. However, important inconsistencies in the dataset/reporting and methodological details must be resolved before publication. The language and formatting also require substantial editing.