Peer Review Report

Review Report on Job leaving intentions of dentists associated with COVID-19 risk, impact of pandemic management, and personal coping resources.

Original Article, Int J Public Health

EVALUATION

Q 1   **Please summarize the main findings of the study.**

In the context of the development of the current pandemic, this article determines the prevalence of job leaving intention of a sample of dentists in Slovakia. It also determines the association between this intention with different subjective variables measured in the same survey. .

Q 2   **Please highlight the limitations and strengths.**

It is a survey with a convenience sample assessed online in Slovakia. There are significant risks concerning convenience sample, in particular an uncontrollable selection bias. Online surveys further raise concerns about quality control. A cross-sectional methodology difficults to make judgments about their previous work environment or personal situations about quitting. The job leaving intention dichotomization seems defined in a very non-restrictive way. The manuscript is only of local interest.

Due to the overall impact of the pandemic, the mental health of Health Care Workers is a field of great concern for the next years. Shortage of workers will be one of the greatest threats to the crisis of healthcare derived from pandemic. Any attempt to measure variables that would help to prevent this shortage are urgently needed. The sample obtained is important in terms of quantity related to the universe (13% approx.), despite problems with statistical representation. Results are logic and well presented. The discussion section is correctly oriented and includes current and relevant studies in the field.

Q 3   **Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.**

MAJOR

There is no context about the sample. All the dentist in the country are part of the chamber? If not, what are the particular characteristics of Slovak Chamber of Dentists? How many are they? Everyone was able to be contacted? About the timing: How the pandemic is connected with this sample in terms of the development of cases/public health measures in the country?

There is not characterization of the sample (classic table 1), besides information about mean of age and proportion of women. Geographical/regional distribution? Specialization? Years working in the current position? Personal history of rotation of positions? Not sure how the dental care in Slovakia is divided (ambulatory, hospitals). What about dentist doing administrative work?

There are not any characterization of the dentist who didn't answer. Are they different from the participants of the sample?
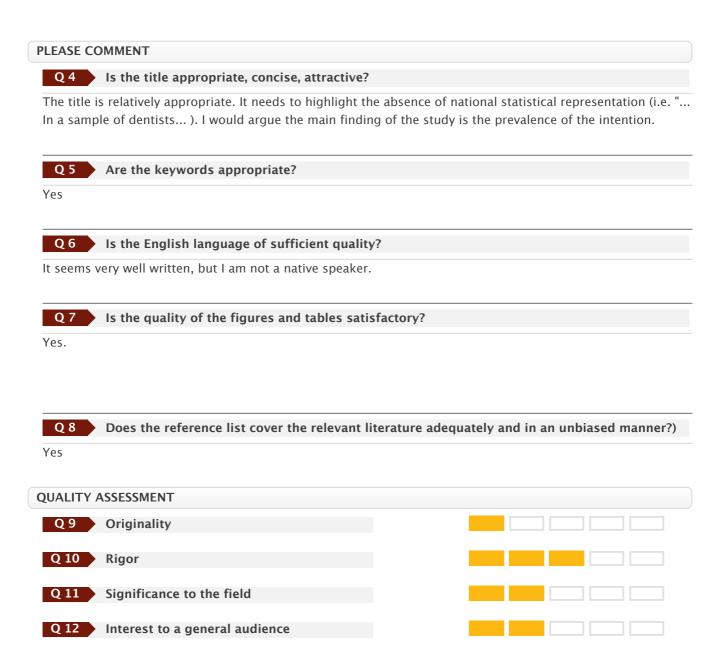
The question to determine de dependent variable seems not adjusted. It comes or is adapted from any validated questionnaire? Id you developed any sort of pilot study to estimate if the question was valid? I{m not completely sure, but it is really easy to answer "yes" to any of the alternatives when compared with the only negative alternative. For example, if someone had to close for a few weeks due to general restrictions, or by illness?

MINOR
Why didn't considered dentist not reporting sex? Something related with online platform?. They are a considerable quantity of dentists.

Overall, the questionnaire should be obtained from some known source (i.e. resilience scale mentioned), or be declared as ad-hoc questions developed by the researchers.

It would be desirable to perform the logistic regression varying the construction of the dependent variable (i.e. using only those who actually quitted the job, or different combinations of answers) to confirm (or discard) if associations found are still present (sensitivity analysis).

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 **Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?**

The title is relatively appropriate. It needs to highlight the absence of national statistical representation (i.e. "... In a sample of dentists...). I would argue the main finding of the study is the prevalence of the intention.

Q 5 **Are the keywords appropriate?**

Yes

Q 6 **Is the English language of sufficient quality?**

It seems very well written, but I am not a native speaker.

Q 7 **Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?**

Yes.

Q 8 **Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)**

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 **Originality** — 1/5

Q 10 **Rigor** — 3/5

Q 11 **Significance to the field** — 2/5

Q 12 **Interest to a general audience** — 2/5

Q 13 Quality of the writing

Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Major revisions.