



Dear Júlia Hinkelmann de Camargos, Melina Barros-Pinheiro, Gilcelia Correia Santos Bernardes, Nivea Aparecida de Almeida, Nathalia Gusmão Prado Schnorr, Ana Cristina La Guardia Custódio, Maria das Graças Carvalho:

Your submission COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT AND BIOCHEMISTRY: DENTISTS` KNOWLEDGE OF THESE TESTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN DENTAL PRACTICE to Brazilian Dental Science, has been revised and according to reviewers' comments, there are questions to be addressed and/or points to be clarified/corrected. Please answer the reviewers considerations point-by-point in a separate document and also please make all the corrections in the text highlighted in yellow.

Deadline: 30 days

Thank you for considering Brazilian Dental Science for publishing your research. We are looking forward the revised version of you manuscript.

Sincerely,

Profa. Dra. Renata Falchete do Prado

Departamento de Biociências e Diagnóstico Bucal

Instituto de Ciência e Tecnologia da UNESP - São José dos Campos

Department of Biosciences and Oral Diagnostics

UNESP Institute of Science and Technology - São José dos Campos

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Reviewer C:

Recommendation: Revisions Required  
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### **Questionnaire**

Does the manuscript contain new and significant information to justify publication?\*

Yes

Does the Abstract (Summary) clearly and accurately describe the content of the article?

Yes

Is the problem significant and concisely stated?

Yes

Are the methods or research design described comprehensively? Is the statistical analysis adequate?

Yes

Are the interpretations and conclusions justified by the results?

Yes

Is adequate reference made to other work in the field?

Yes

Is the language acceptable?

Yes

### **Manuscript Structure**

Length of article is:\*

Adequate

Number of tables is:

Too Long

Number of figures is:

Too Short

**Please state any conflict(s) of interest that you have in relation to the review of this paper (state “none” if this is not applicable).**

None

**Rating**

Interest\*

Good

Quality

Good

Originality

Good

Overall

Good

**Recommendation**

Minor Revision

**Would you be willing to review a revision of this manuscript?**

Yes

**Comments**

*Comments to the Author*

1) The sample was one of convenience, recruited via the CRO-MG electronic bulletin, which limits representativeness. The study reports n=279, but CRO-MG has nearly 40,000 registered members, the response rate was low, and this needs

to be discussed as a methodological limitation of greater impact. The construction of the knowledge score is interesting but lacks formal validation. The weighting assigned to the questions was defined by the authors, which may introduce bias. Suggestion: Include in the Methods section a more detailed justification regarding the validity of the score and its limitations.

2) The results are presented in an organized manner in tables, with clear descriptions. The findings include the low frequency of exam requests and the insufficient knowledge among dentists.

Suggestions: Some tables could be condensed to avoid redundancy (e.g., Tables 3 and 4). Include at least bivariate association tests (chi-square, t-test/ANOVA, or non-parametric equivalents). If possible, add a simple multivariate analysis to strengthen the validity of the findings.

3) Still regarding statistical tests, suggestions of what could be applied:

- Pearson's chi-square test or Fisher's exact test: compare knowledge (low/medium/high) × year of graduation (before/after 2002), frequency of exam requests × presence of specialization....

- An ordinal logistic regression (if using the weak/medium/good classification) or linear regression (if using the continuous score) could identify independent factors associated with a higher level of knowledge (e.g., years since graduation, specialization, type of practice).

This would provide greater robustness to the discussion, showing that the knowledge deficit does not depend solely on specialization or years since graduation.

4) The discussion is consistent and engages with the literature. However there was a lack of deeper exploration of the practical implications (such as the legal responsibility of dentists when failing to request exams when indicated).

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Reviewer H:

Recommendation: Accept Submission

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Is adequate reference made to other work in the field?

Yes

Is the language acceptable?

Yes

### **Manuscript Structure**

Length of article is:\*

Adequate

Number of tables is:

Adequate

Number of figures is:

Adequate

**Please state any conflict(s) of interest that you have in relation to the review of this paper (state “none” if this is not applicable).**

I do not have any conflict of interest in relation to this paper.

### **Rating**

Interest\*

Excellent

Quality

Good

Originality

Excellent

Overall

Good

**Recommendation**

Accept

**Would you be willing to review a revision of this manuscript?**

Yes

**Comments**

*Comments to the Author*

The topic discussed is of paramount importance for all of us, dentists, regardless of the specialty, but very much essential for surgical disciplines of Dentistry. In fact, it is very clear for us, dentists, the need to expand the basic knowledge of Internal Medicine applied to Dentistry, including topics on Hematology. It is crucial to dentists to be prepared to detect serious systemic abnormalities in the daily clinical practice. Thus, your paper demonstrates the need for narrative reviews on topics that better prepare students and professionals for the systemic aspect of Health. Moreover, from my point of view, Dentistry programs should contemplate a course of Applied Internal Medicine. In conclusion, the interpretation of biochemical and blood tests are very essential for dental practice. For example, a patient may present with enlarged, purple or black gums, and a "subclinical silent"

or an opening clinical picture of frank leukemia should be considered in the differential diagnosis. A significantly altered blood count with the presence of blastic cells is to be expected. This early diagnosis is the difference between survival and death. Severe bleeding accident could happen during and after oral surgical procedures. Definitely, dentists should be better prepared to acknowledge systemics diseases, its suspicion, diagnosis and patient urgent and ready referral.

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