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SLOVENIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWERS

June 2023



To make your job easier, we have prepared instructions on how to submit reviews for the *Slovenian Journal of Public Health*. We appreciate your time and effort in helping improve the quality of our journal. Thank you very much for your valuable reviews.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE SLOVENIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

For those of you who are not familiar with our journal, we would like to provide some general information.

The *Slovenian Journal of Public Health* has been published since 1962 by the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia. Since 2003, the journal has been a peer-reviewed scientific journal with English abstracts, and since 2014, an international scientific public health journal in English only. The journal's mission is to promote new achievements in the broad field of public health in Slovenia and Central and South-East Europe. The *Slovenian Journal of Public Health* publishes internationally oriented articles and encourages an interdisciplinary approach to public health. The journal is a forum for exchanging new public health concepts and solutions among researchers. The journal mainly publishes original scientific articles, and on occasion also systematic reviews, methodological articles, and invited editorials. It is published four times a year, with up to 35 articles each year, and has an average annual rejection rate of around 80%. The journal is indexed in major international databases, such as PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus, and has had an impact factor since 2011, ranging from 0.16 to 1.6. As an open-access journal it is available online on De Gruyter, Sciendo <https://sciendo.com/journal/SJPH>.



Submitted manuscripts with a public health theme of international relevance are forwarded to two editors for review after technical integrity and plagiarism checking with [Crossref iThenticate](#). If a manuscript is judged worthy of the peer-review process, the editor sends it to three internationally renowned reviewers for review, at least one of whom must be from outside Slovenia. The review process is double-blinded. Our aim is that the process is fast, fair and constructive.

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An invitation will be sent to you by the *Slovenian Journal of Public Health*, with the subject line 'Review Invitation' and the manuscript title.

From: "Slovenian Journal of Public Health" <editorialmanager@em.sjph.si>
To: Zilka Klemenčič-Krtič <krtic@zdrav.si>
Subject: Review Invitation for THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH IMPACT SCALE (ECOHIS-SVN)
Date: 16. March 2023 10:53 AM
View this e-mail in your browser: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/sjph/Default.aspx?tabid=102&url=/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=102&url=/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=102>
You are kindly invited to review the manuscript for the Slovenian Journal of Public Health entitled "THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH IMPACT SCALE (ECOHIS-SVN)".
This is the abstract:
Introduction: The aim of the study was to develop and evaluate the validity and reliability of the first Slovenian instrument assessing the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQL) of preschool children. The ECOHIS-SVN, in addition, we searched for possible associations between the ECOHIS-SVN score and the individual sociodemographic factors.
Methods: The ECOHIS-SVN was developed using a forward-backward translation. A pilot test was previously conducted with 100 children aged 3-5 years. The final version of the ECOHIS-SVN was tested on 300 children aged 3-5 years. The internal consistency of the ECOHIS-SVN was evaluated through the generation of Cronbach's alpha (α), test-retest reliability with an intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC), convergent validity with Secondary Oral Care (SOC) and Oral Health-Related Quality of Life (OHRQL) scales, and the association between the ECOHIS-SVN score and parents' age, education level, child-reported oral health, and OHRQL was evaluated using multiple linear regression.
Results: In total, 300 children participated, with a mean age of 4.5 years (SD=0.8). The ECOHIS-SVN questionnaire was completed by parents of all 228 children and 72 parents. Results of the final ECOHIS-SVN scale include α=0.91, ICC=0.85, and r=0.87. A statistically significant association was found between the ECOHIS-SVN and parents' age and between the ECOHIS-SVN and parents' OHRQL in the whole group and in the subgroup of children without tooth-related pain (SOC=0.85, r=0.87).
Conclusion: ECOHIS-SVN is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing the OHRQL of preschool children in the Slovenian-speaking population.
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With kind regards,
Mrs. Zilka Klemenčič-Krtič, Ph.D., M.D.

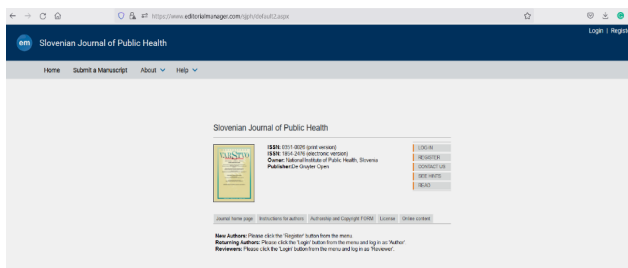
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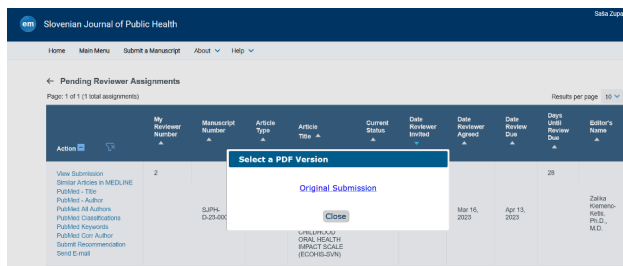
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1 INTRODUCTION

2 Oral health is an integral part of general health, and oral diseases have a significant impact
3 on the quality of life and lead to higher healthcare costs (1). Oral health and general health
4 are associated (2), as well as oral health-related and health-related quality of life (3). Many
5 diseases show signs or symptoms in the oral cavity. Health problems in the oral cavity can
6 either be the first, only or even the most severe manifestation of a systemic disease,
7 additionally oral health problems can be a leading cause in a deterioration in quality of life (4).
8 Different untreated oral diseases can lead to tooth loss, which affects self-rated general
9 health (5) not to mention the ability to eat, speak and interact with people. Although oral
10 health problems usually do not represent health emergencies, they prolong the state of pain
11 and suffering, and cause functional, aesthetic, nutritional and psychological problems (5).
12 Periodontitis, which is one of the most prevalent oral diseases, can be a potential
13 contributing risk factor for a wide array of clinically important systemic diseases, such as
14 cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune diseases, pregnancy complications as well as
15 diabetes mellitus (DM) (6). The main factor for developing periodontitis is formation of
16 bacterial plaque on tooth surfaces. However, some studies also suggested that poor glycemic
17 control is associated with higher risk for developing periodontitis (7). On the other hand,
18 conventional periodontal treatment (scaling and root planning) results in a statistically
19 significant reduction in glycosylated haemoglobin levels (8).

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[illegible]

Answer the questions about the clarity of the presentation, the literature, the quality of the design, the adequacy of the analyses, the interpretation of the results, the importance of the results, the appropriateness for the field of public health and for our journal.

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- *Clarity of presentation (3=not applicable, 4=excellent, 5=poor)

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N/A	1	2	3	4

- *Adequacy of literature review (2=not applicable, 4=excellent, 5=poor, 3=adequate, 1=poor)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Prepared by: Saša Zupanič, executive editor