REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55736

Title: Multimodal Dental Pain Management: Contemporary Strategies and Future Directions

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision ………………

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Sudheer Aluru

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript is a comprehensive narrative review on multimodal dental pain management. The topic is highly relevant to clinical dentistry, and the scope is appropriately broad, covering pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies across dental specialties. The review is well-structured and demonstrates a good synthesis of current literature.

However, in its current form, the review is overly long, uneven in depth, and largely descriptive, with limited critical synthesis. Significant restructuring, tightening of content, and refinement of focus are required for it to meet the standards of a high-quality review article.

Major Comments

1. As a narrative review, it must at minimum describe the search strategy, databases used (e.g., PubMed, Scopus), keywords, and date range for the literature covered. The absence of this section undermines the manuscript's scholarly rigor and reproducibility.

2. The review often lists strategies and modalities without critically appraising the evidence. For example, it mentions numerous non-pharmacologic interventions (acupuncture, TENS, VR, etc.) but does not differentiate between those with strong evidence (e.g., cryotherapy) and those with preliminary or weak evidence. The discussion reads more like a catalog than a critical synthesis.

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3. The level of detail is uneven. Some sections (e.g., pharmacologic approaches for acute pain) provide specific dosages, while others (e.g., entire dental specialties in Section 4) are covered superficially in brief paragraphs. The tables (Pharmacologic Modalities, Nonpharmacologic Modalities, Anesthetic Modalities) are useful but their data is largely repeated in the surrounding text, adding length without insight.

4. Some tables read as guideline summaries rather than analytical tools. Each table should clearly add value beyond what is already stated.

5. Attempting to cover all dental specialties, all pain types (acute, chronic neuropathic, TMD), and all modalities (pharmacologic, behavioral, technology-assisted, physical) results in a lack of depth on any single topic. The manuscript would be significantly strengthened by focusing on 2-3 core areas (e.g., acute postoperative pain management across surgery/endodontics, and the role of non-pharmacologic adjuvants).

6. Section 5 lists generic trends (personalized medicine, digital health, ERAS) but fails to ground them in the specific gaps or limitations identified in the preceding review. The conclusions are not effectively drawn from the body of the paper.

Minor Comments

7. The keyword list is excessive (14 phrases) and contains redundancies (e.g., "NSAID-acetaminophen combination therapy" and "Multimodal dental pain management")

8. Minor grammatical and formatting inconsistencies are present and require careful language editing.

9. Citation formatting is inconsistent in places, with duplicated guideline references and occasional redundancy.

10. Some claims (e.g., regarding herbal gels, TRPV1-modulating agents, AI-driven personalization) would benefit from more cautious wording.