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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56203

Title: Minimally Invasive and Preventive Approaches in Contemporary Dental Caries Management

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Sudheer Aluru

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript presents a well-structured, up-to-date narrative review on minimally invasive and preventive strategies in contemporary dental caries management. The topic is highly relevant, clinically important, and aligned with current paradigms emphasizing biologically driven, patient-centered care. The review demonstrates good command of the literature, balanced coverage of preventive, microinvasive, and minimally invasive restorative approaches, and appropriate integration of clinical evidence.

The manuscript is clear, coherent, and suitable for publication in a dental or oral health journal. Only minor revisions are required to improve precision, balance, and presentation.

Major Strengths

- Clear focus on **preventive, microinvasive, and minimally invasive strategies**
- Good integration of **risk-based caries management (CAMBRA)**
- Strong coverage of **SDF, resin infiltration, ART, and the Hall Technique**
- Table 1 effectively summarizes clinical outcomes and limitations
- References are largely current, relevant, and drawn from reputable journals
- Discussion of **barriers to adoption** adds practical and policy relevance
- Future directions section is thoughtful and appropriately scoped

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Major Comments

1. Review Methodology Not Explicitly Defined

The manuscript does not clarify whether this is a systematic, scoping, or narrative review. Although the content suggests a narrative review, this should be explicitly stated, along with a brief description of literature selection (e.g., databases searched, time frame, inclusion focus).

2. Overlapping and Redundant Citations

Some references are repeated or overlap substantially in scope (e.g., Desai et al. cited twice). Streamlining references would improve clarity and conciseness.

3. Evidence Weighting Could Be Clearer

While clinical evidence is broadly discussed, the manuscript would benefit from clearer differentiation between:

- High-level evidence (RCTs, systematic reviews)
- Observational or consensus-based recommendations

This is particularly relevant in the sections on SDF and minimally invasive techniques in permanent dentition.

4. Clarify the following

Line	Claim	Action Required
48	"up to 70% reduction over five years"	Specify that this is from systematic review evidence
68	"over 80% of primary teeth"	Cite specific trial(s) supporting this figure
74	"85–90% survival at 3–5 years"	Clarify whether this applies to primary or permanent teeth

Minor Comments

- Minor formatting inconsistencies (line breaks, hyphenation, superscript citation markers)
- Some percentages and outcome claims (e.g., survival rates, effectiveness ranges) could be accompanied by clearer attribution to specific study types
- The Conclusion could be slightly shortened to avoid repetition of Introduction themes