



<b>Title</b>	<b>Oral carriage of yeasts and coliforms in stroke sufferers</b>
<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Zhu, HW; McMillan, AS; McGrath, CPJ; Li, LSW; Samaranayake, LP</b>
<b>Citation</b>	<b>The 84th General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research &amp; 1st Meeting of the Pan-Asian-Pacific Federation, Brisbane, Australia, 28 June-1 July 2006. In Journal of Dental Research, 2006, v. 85 Sp Iss B, abstract no. 0845</b>
<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>URL</b>	<b><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/53867">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/53867</a></b>
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# 0845 Oral Carriage of Yeasts and Coliforms in Stroke Sufferers

[H.W. ZHU](#)<sup>1</sup>, A.S. McMILLAN<sup>2</sup>, C. McGRATH<sup>2</sup>, L.S.W. LI<sup>2</sup>, and L.P. SAMARANAYAKE<sup>1</sup>,  
<sup>1</sup>University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, <sup>2</sup>Tung Wah Hospital, Hong Kong, China

Stroke is a major cause of functional disability in the elderly. Stroke-related limb paralysis and manual dexterity affect the stroke sufferers' ability to clean their teeth and dentures and to maintain a healthy oral condition, thus stroke sufferers are at high risk of oral opportunistic infections. Objective: To investigate changes in oral carriage of yeasts and coliforms in stroke sufferers over time. Methods: In a prospective longitudinal study, 56 elderly stroke sufferers received oral microbiological sampling using two different methods and clinical assessment on three occasions: during the acute stroke phase, on hospital discharge and six months later. Data were analysed using Cochran Q, McNemar, Friedman 2-way ANOVA, Wilcoxon signed rank tests and logistic regression. Results: The oral carriage of yeasts increased significantly during acute stroke ( $p < 0.05$ ) whereas coliform carriage did not. A reduction in the oral carriage of yeasts was found on hospital discharge and six months later and in coliforms at six-month assessment ( $p < 0.05$ ). Tooth sites with plaque and gingival bleeding decreased over time ( $p < 0.05$ ). *Candida albicans* was the predominant yeast isolated and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* the most prevalent coliform. The mean Barthel Index score increased from 51 during acute stroke to 78 on hospital discharge and 82 six months later ( $p < 0.05$ ). Stroke-related difficulty in tooth brushing and denture wearing were associated with higher oral yeast carriage. The use of aspirin was associated with lower oral yeast carriage in stroke sufferers ( $p < 0.05$ ). Conclusions: Oral yeast carriage was closely linked to the level of stroke-related functional disability that improved over time but had not totally resolved six months after hospital discharge. The oral reservoir of stroke patients is noteworthy by care providers as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* may cause aspiration pneumonia. Supported by CRCG-HKU.

[Seq #72 - Candida](#)

11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Thursday, 29 June 2006 Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Exhibit Hall 1

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