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0700 Use of Clinpro™ Cario in diagnosing childhood caries

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Objectives: Childhood caries is one of the major chronic diseases of pre-school children in China. The objectives of this study are: to study the use of Clinpro™ Cario of lactic acid in oral biofilm and correlate its diagnostic efficacy with the levels of S. mutans and Lactobacilli spp. in saliva, and the dental caries in preschool children. Materials and Methods: The sample population: 4- and 5- year old children in 8 kindergartens in two districts in Beijing. Childhood caries was screened according to the criteria by WHO. The DMFS scores were recorded, levels of S. mutans and Lactobacilli spp. in saliva were measured and the lactic acid produced in oral biofilm from different groups was evaluated by Clinpro™ Cario. Statistical analysis: chi-test was used to determine the significance difference exist between two groups of children. Results: Preschool children with different DMFS were grouped into low (DMFS=0), moderate (DMFS < 3) and high caries risk (DMFS > 3) groups. The levels of S. mutans and Lactobacilli spp. in saliva were significantly different among low, moderate and high caries risk groups ($p<0.05$). The level of lactic acid produced as measured by Clinpro Cario L-Pop™ was not significantly different among low, moderate and high caries risk groups ($p>0.05$). Conclusions: The levels of S. mutans and Lactobacilli spp. in saliva seems to differentiate different caries risk in preschool children. Lactic acid in oral biofilm did not diagnose caries risk in preschool children in this study. (Financial support from 3M-ESPE (a/c 26002614, University of Hong Kong, China) is gratefully acknowledged.)

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