

Streptococcus mutans, lactobacilli and dental health in 13-14-year-old Swedish children.

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The dental health and the prevalence of *Streptococcus mutans* and lactobacilli were examined in 101 13-14-year-old children. The average number of decayed (incipient caries) and filled surfaces (DFS) was 10.1 and 12.8, respectively. *S. mutans* was not detected in 11% of the children while 21% had 10(6) or more *S. mutans* per ml saliva. Lactobacilli were not found in 21% of the children whereas 11% had 10(5) or more lactobacilli per ml saliva. **Statistically significant correlations were found between *S. mutans* and lactobacilli, *S. mutans* and DFS, lactobacilli and DFS and *S. mutans* plus lactobacilli and DFS. Increasing numbers of *S. mutans* and lactobacilli, alone and in combination, were associated with an increased caries frequency.**

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