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 13-114-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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