**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** The effects of essential oil mouthrinses with or without alcohol on plaque and gingivitis: a randomized controlled clinical study

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**Version:** 2 **Date:** 18 Oct 2017

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Dear Editor,

Below are editor's comments and our responses:

1. According to the guidelines of the journal unpublished data cannot be cited as a reference just as a “personal communication” and giving the names of the included researchers (with their permission).

Under the Discussion section, we deleted a reference to unpublished data and revised the text. Now it says:

A recent meta-analysis identified 35 clinical trials of six-month or longer on EO mouthrinses (7) and included 29 trials that met the inclusion criteria. Two of these 29 studies included an AFM but it was not compared with ACM. One of these two studies was published (16). In this published six-month study, the efficacy of AFM was assessed in comparison to a negative control mouthrinse and an alcohol-free 0.05% CPC mouthrinse. Subjects performed their daily mechanical oral hygiene (MOH).
2. Abstracts if published can be cited.

No change is needed.

3. Further I suggest to add a comment that improving oral hygiene might also help to improve gingival inflammation.

Under Discussion, we revised the text and it says:

Thus, the inclusion of either ACM or AFM to an individual’s oral hygiene regimen can play a valuable role in reducing plaque, gingivitis, and gingival bleeding beyond using MOH alone. Overall, improving patients’ oral hygiene may also help to improve gingival inflammation.

We have a quick question for editor: should we say "improve gingival inflammation" or "reduce gingival inflammation"?