Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact of Polyols on Oral Microbiome of Estonian Schoolchildren

Authors:

Jelena Štšepetova (jelena.stsepetova@ut.ee)
Jaak Truu (jaak.truu@ut.ee)
Riina Runnel (riina.runnel@ut.ee)
Rita Nõmmela (rita.nommela@ut.ee)
Mare Saag (mare.saag@kliinikum.ee)
Jana Olak (jana.olak@kliinikum.ee)
Hiie Nõlvak (hiie.nolvak@ut.ee)
Jens-Konrad Preem (jens-konrad.preem@ut.ee)
Kristjan Oopkaup (kristjan.oopkaup@ut.ee)
Kaarel Krjutškov (kaarel.krutskov@ut.ee)
Eino Honkala (eino.honkala@gmail.com)
Sisko Honkala (sisko.l.honkala@uit.no)
Kauko Mäkinen (kaukokmaken@gmail.com)
Pirkko-Liisa Mäkinen (makinensirkkoliisa@gmail.com)
Tero Vahlberg (tero.vahlberg@utu.fi)
Joan Vermeiren (Joan_Vermeiren@cargill.com)
Douwina Bosscher (Douwina_Bosscher@cargill.com)
Peter de Cock (Peter_Decock@cargill.com)
Reet Mändar (reet.mandar@ut.ee)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Reviewer 1,

Thank you for valuable comments and suggestions. The manuscript has been critically revised. Here are the answers to the questions and comments.

Periodontal status was not investigated in these children since these diseases are very infrequent in this age. Periodontal changes might accompany some general diseases or continuous drug use but both were exclusion criteria for this study. In addition, we detected the counts of (aggressive) periodontitis-associated bacteria Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans but no deviations from the generally low proportion were noted in our study subjects.

Short limitation paragraph was added into the paper.

Dear Reviewer 2,

Thank you for valuable comments and suggestions. The manuscript has been critically revised. Here are the answers to the questions and comments.

Several papers have been published about the same clinical study and the inclusion and exclusion criteria were presented in the previous papers being referenced in the current paper (references 15-17). However, we updated the “Study population” section and it seems to be more clear now.

The statistical methods for the study were proposed by the team of statisticians (led by one of the authors, Tero Vahlberg (he is biostatistician at University of Turku). It was done already before the microbiological study and in this stage we cannot change the methods.