Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficiency of chewable toothbrush in reduction of dental plaque in students

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Jeffery L. Milleman

Reviewer’s report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Abstract: The Conclusions are fine with regard to plaque removal but you cannot include caries and periodontal diseases.

Methods: The "average life span was 23 years" and this needs to be rewritten as average age 23 years.

Methods: The chewing and brushing times should be the same (3 minutes). Please explain this oversight in Discussion.

Results: A summary Table would be very well serve to discern all the tooth surface plaque reductions.

Discussion: The benefit of the chewable tooth brush used in this study...is NOT the result of a 3 minute exposure of Xylitol. This is most likely the result of mechanical removal. A longer term exposure to Xylitol may result in plaque reductions although this is not a conclusion from this research.

Conclusions: Please remove the "prevent caries and periodontal diseases" as this is not part of this research study.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have no conflicts of interest to report.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal