

Age-related microbiological changes in the salivary and plaque microflora of healthy adults.

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The effect of age on quantitative or qualitative differences in selected bacteria of dental significance and on the carriage of opportunistic pathogens and transient oral species was determined in 79 healthy, non-denture wearing individuals divided into four age groups: 20-39 years (group A), 40-59 years (group B), 60-79 years (group C) and greater than or equal to 80 years (group D). Samples of dental plaque and whole saliva were cultured on appropriate selective and non-selective bacteriological media. The total numbers of viable bacteria in saliva, and the prevalence of mutans streptococci in plaque and saliva were similar in all age groups. Similarly, there was no correlation between the numbers of spirochaetes in plaque and age. In contrast, statistically significantly higher mean proportions ($p = 0.004$), mean log₁₀ viable counts ($p = 0.001$) and isolation frequencies (p less than 0.01) of lactobacilli were found in the saliva of those aged greater than or equal to 70 years compared to subjects in group A. The isolation frequency (p less than 0.05) and proportions ($p = 0.056$) of staphylococci in saliva were also higher in those aged greater than or equal to 70 years. Yeasts were isolated most often and in higher numbers from saliva in those aged greater than or equal to 80 years and the proportion of yeasts was higher after 60 years of age, but these differences were not significant in comparison with results from individuals in group A. (ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)

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- [Saliva mediated adherence, aggregation and prevalence in dental plaque of Streptococcus mutans, Streptococcus sanguis and Actinomyces spp, in young and elderly humans.](#) [Arch Oral Biol. 1996]

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