

# **1357 Cariogenic bacteria in southern Chinese people with Sjögren's syndrome**

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Sjögren's syndrome (SS) is an autoimmune disorder characterized by lymphocytic infiltration of the exocrine glands leading to xerostomia and kerato-conjunctivitis sicca. It is well recognized that SS patients have a high caries risk due to reduced salivary flow. Objective: The study evaluated the colonization of *Streptococcus mutans* (MS) and *Lactobacilli* (LB) in Chinese SS patients. Methods: 53 SS patients (50 females and 3 males, 26 primary SS, pSS and 27 secondary cases, sSS) and 29 matched controls were recruited from Queen Mary and Prince Philip Dental Hospitals, the University of Hong Kong. Selective cultures of stimulated whole saliva in Rogosa SL agar and Mitis-Salivarius agar respectively were carried out to isolate, quantify, and speciate MS and LB recovery using API kits and 16S rRNA sequencing. Data were analyzed using Chi-square, ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests. Results: Samples from 4% pSS and sSS, and 3% controls showed positive MS isolation and the mean MS counts were 150, 3407 and 140 cfu/ml respectively with no difference between groups ( $P > 0.05$ ). LB was isolated in samples from 58% pSS, 37% sSS and 28% controls and the mean LB counts were 185130, 40860 and 960 cfu/ml respectively with significant differences between SS and control groups ( $P < 0.05$ ). The predominant LB isolated was *L. acidophilus* in SS and control groups. Conclusions: Southern Chinese Sjögren's syndrome patients appeared to harbour more LB than non-SS controls whereas the presence of MS was low and similar in SS and non-SS groups. *Supported by CRCG-HKU.*

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[Back to the Microbiology / Immunology and Infection Control Program](#)

[Back to the IADR General Session & Exhibition \(June 28 – July 1, 2006\)](#)