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are known to be essential for children's oral health. These tablets are recommended for bone and tooth mineralisation in children. **METHODS** Eighty children aged 7–16 years took part in this study. Altogether 40 samples of non-stimulated mixed saliva were gathered at baseline and after 3 months of consumption of 3 "Calsinova" tablets a day. The content of total calcium, inorganic phosphates, and magnesium was determined with an autoanalyser (Hemolyzer 2000), the alkaline phosphatase activity with an autoanalyser (AP-Carmay). **RESULTS** The results showed that the total calcium content increased significantly ($p < 0.01$) from 0.53 ± 0.04 mMol/l up to 0.83 ± 0.07 mMol/l, phosphorus from 2.19 ± 0.40 up to 3.61 ± 0.30 mMol/l ($p < 0.01$), and magnesium from 0.15 ± 0.01 up to 0.31 ± 0.01 mMol/l ($p < 0.001$). Phosphatase activity also increased significantly from 14.93 ± 0.91 U/l to 31.78 ± 0.91 U/l ($p < 0.001$). **CONCLUSION** It was concluded that mineral-vitamin tablets "Calsinova" did have an influence on the remineralising properties of saliva.

Monitoring of oral health status during long-term isolation of volunteers in SFINCSS-99 experiment

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OBJECTIVE The aim of this investigation was to evaluate oral health status of people who had taken part in the international experiment SFINCSS-99 which had simulated the conditions of space flight. **BACKGROUND** Isolation is known to be a factor which can influence cosmonauts' oral health and psychophysiological status. **METHODS** Two crews, each including 4 subjects, were followed during 240 (test group) and 110 (control group) isolation days. Before the experiment, professional oral hygiene was performed for the participants in the test group: they were involved in oral health education and motivation to encourage them to carry out oral hygiene practices regularly. The participants of the control group were examined only. All 8 subjects were supplied with Oral-B toothbrushes, toothpastes, mouth rinses, and dental floss. The examinations included the evaluation of DMFT, and PMA (Parma, 1960) and patient's hygiene performance (PHP; Podshadley & Haley, 1968) indices. **RESULTS** DMFT values did not change in either of the groups. The initial mean values of PHP were 1.75 (test group) and 1.30 (control group), PMA – 14.7 % and 2.8 % respectively. The final examination revealed that PHP and PMA values decreased in the test group, but increased in the control group (to 2.6, and 13.3% respectively). **CONCLUSION** It was concluded that it is possible to eliminate the negative effect of long-term isolation by adequate oral hygiene and following oral health education.

A clinical trial of a new toothbrush with crossed filament

plaque index, Mann Whitney for Bleeding, Staining and Gingival Indices, and multiple variable ANOVA for plaque index increments. **RESULTS** No significant differences by type of tooth brush were revealed for the Gingival and Staining Indices. No independent effect of oral hygiene instruction was detected. For the Bleeding Index, a significant difference ($p = 0.04$) was revealed at 30 days. For Plaque Index levels before brushing, a significant difference was found at 15 days ($p = 0.03$) and at 30 days ($p = 0.002$), and for Plaque Index levels after brushing a significant difference was found at 15 days ($p = 0.04$) and at 30 days ($p = 0.01$). For incremental Plaque Index levels highly significant differences were demonstrated at 15 days ($p = 0.004$) and at 30 days ($p = 0.001$). All the differences were in favor of the test toothbrush. **CONCLUSIONS** These results clearly indicated a promising plaque removal potential for this newly developed tooth brush design with crossed filament tufts. This study was funded by GABA International, Switzerland.

The quality of clinical guidelines in dentistry

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OBJECTIVE To critically appraise the quality of clinical guidelines in dentistry. **BACKGROUND** Clinical practice guidelines are developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. There is a concern that many existing guidelines are biased and may be inadequate or not feasible for practice. A new critical appraisal tool has been developed to address the issue (AGREE, Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation, www.agreecollaboration.org). **METHODS** Twenty clinical guidelines were randomly selected from the FDI World Dental Federation database of guidelines (www.fdiworldental.org/guidelines). The guidelines were appraised according to the AGREE Instrument by a single appraiser. **RESULTS** The scores for the six domains: Scope and purpose, stakeholder involvement, rigour of development, clarity and presentation, Applicability and Editorial independence were low. The overall assessment of the quality of the guidelines was that one could be strongly recommended for use, three could be recommended and as many as 16 should not be recommended due to questionable internal and external validity. **CONCLUSIONS** Many existing clinical guidelines in dentistry are inadequate according to current consensus on the quality of clinical practice guidelines.

Dentists and New Graduates: EEA and Accession Countries in 1998

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OBJECTIVE The objective of this study was to compare and