

Reviewer's report

Title: Children's Acceptance of Milk with Xylitol or Sorbitol for Dental Caries Prevention

Version: 1 **Date:** 27 April 2005

Reviewer: Pentti (Johannes) Alanen

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a nice attempt to try to improve caries prevention. There is, however, a (major?) methodological problem - which does not affect the current paper itself but may be a big problem for the whole study. The authors say in the Discussion that "studies are needed to ascertain whether single dose per day is substantive enough to modify the bacteria flora" Any references? There are some indications in the literature that even a frequency of two per day may be too low to give a preventive effect. Therefore, before any large and demanding field trial one should be sure that the frequency of xylitol intake is adequate. As far as I am correctly informed, no retention in the oral cavity happens with xylitol. This methodological aspect may be crucial for the whole project.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The daily doses have to be corrected throughout the paper; 0.021, 0.042 g/ml, and in Discussion: "five to 10 g of xylitol affects..."

Tables 2 and 3 have the same title. Where is powder milk?

What is UHT milk? Perhaps plain milk? Please explain.

Are gum, candies etc foods?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.