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Caries activity test in Mongolian and Japanese children

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Abstract The main objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between a caries activity test (CAT21 Test), and caries status. The subjects of this study were 419 preschool children, of Okayama City, Japan and, of Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia. In all, subjects were examined for dental caries using a mouth mirror and probe. Then buccal plaque samples were obtained, incubated at 37°C for 48 hours, and scored as per the manufacturer's instructions for the Cariostat method. The following results were obtained:

1. The caries prevalence and mean deft of the two subjects was 55.0% and 3.2 for Japanese, so 92.4% and 6.6 for Mongolians, respectively.
2. Results of the CAT21 Test score distribution are as follows: 14% of the Japanese, 7.6% of the Mongolians had a CAT score of 0 (very low risk), 38% of the Japanese, 12.4% of the Mongolians had a 1.0 (low risk), 16.3% of the Japanese, 17.9% of the Mongolians had a 2.0 (middle risk), 25.5% of the Japanese, 36.6% of the Mongolians had a 3.0 (high risk), and 6.2% of the Japanese, 25.5% of the Mongolians had a 4.0 (very high risk) score.
3. There was a statistically significant difference in the CAT21 Test scores and dental caries indices of Japanese and Mongolian preschool children (ANOVA $P < 0.01$, $P < 0.001$). From these results, it was suggested that the CAT21 Test is useful in clinical application.

Key words Caries activity test, Cariostat method, CAT21 Test, Dental caries



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