

## **2929 *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* genotypes from oral rinse samples of Tibetan children**

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We reported earlier high prevalence (82%) of *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* colonization in oral cavities of Tibetan children living in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region. (J Dent Res 1999;78:1160, abstr. 24). **Objective:** This study aimed at investigating the genotypes of the *S. maltophilia* isolates to further characterize the colonization pattern in the children studied. **Methods:** A total of 62 *S. maltophilia* isolates (range: 0-3/subject, mean: 1.3±0.8 isolate/person) from 50 11-13 year old children at two primary schools were analyzed using randomly amplified polymeric DNA (RAPD) techniques and unweighted pair group method with arithmetic means (UPGMA). **Results:** Using a  $S_{AB}$  0.75 threshold, analysis of the RAPD patterns generated by 2 different primers demonstrated 9 distinct *S. maltophilia* clonal types and these were found to be school specific ( $p=0.0005$ ,  $\chi^2$  test). The fact that multiple clonal types of *S. maltophilia* were isolated from the two schools (7/9 from one and 5/9 from the other) indicated that the "oral infection" of this bacterium was not from a major isolated source, e.g. contaminated drinking water, food etc. **Conclusion:** *S. maltophilia* of different clonal types appeared to be able to colonize oral cavities of Tibetan children with great ease. Supported by the University of Hong Kong.

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