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Prevalence of oral malodor and the relationship with habitual mouth breathing in children.

Kanehira T, Takehara J, Takahashi D, Honda O, Morita M.

Department of Oral Health Science, Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Dental Medicine, Sapporo, Japan.

The prevalence of oral malodor and association of habitual mouth breathing with oral malodor were investigated in children residing in rural areas. One hundred and nineteen children participated in this study. A sulfide monitor and organoleptic method were used to evaluate oral malodor. About 8% of children had a sulfide level in mouth air above the socially acceptable limit (75 ppb). Habitual mouth breathing was a factor contributing to oral malodor. Oral malodor was not significantly correlated with plaque index, history of caries or frequency of toothbrushing.

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