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Controlling Toothbrush Contamination Using Hexitidine
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Toothbrush rinsing after used, following a normal oral hygiene procedure was carried for 2 weeks. Microbial contamination of used toothbrush rinsed with hexetidine was compared to normal tap water (as this is a normal regime in every home after toothbrushing) and sterilised deionised water (as control due to not containing any ions, minerals or microbes). The total number of microbes isolated were $6.2\times10^7$, $7.4\times10^7$ and $7.6\times10^7$ CFU/ml from tap water, deionised water and hexetidine respectively. Identification tests on representative colonies indicated that *S. aureus*, *Actinomyces* sp. and *Clostridium* sp were isolated from toothbrush rinsed with tap water, *S. aureus* and *Peptostreptococcus* sp obtained from toothbrush rinsed with deionised water. *Staphylococcus* sp. was the only strain isolated from hexetidine rinsed toothbrush but with a very low count indicating a reduction in toothbrush contamination. Thus it is concluded that rinsing with hexetidine after normal toothbrushing is effective in reducing microbial contamination.