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*The Effects of Different Antibacterial Toothpastes on the Growth of Streptococcus Mutans*

Three different brands of antibacterial toothpastes were tested to find the amount of bacterial growth on each plate of Streptococcus mutans. I hypothesized the growth of Streptococcus mutans in a plate of Aquafresh Extreme Clean toothpaste would decrease by a third. I also thought that the growth of Streptococcus mutans in a plate of Colgate Total and Arm and Hammer PeroxiCare would decrease by half. Two plates, each divided into two halves, of Streptococcus mutans including sheep blood agar, which was the growth medium. One dime-sized droplet of toothpaste was dropped directly onto the middle of the plate. Growth was monitored daily for three days. On the fourth day, I found that Aquafresh Extreme Clean had a mean zone of inhibition of 9.42 square millimeters, Colgate Total- 14.13 square millimeters, and Arm and Hammer PeroxiCare- 57.31 square millimeters. My data did not support my hypothesis in regards to Colgate Total because I thought growth would be decreased by a half, although, it was only decreased by a third. Although, my data did support my hypothesis in the cases of Arm and Hammer PeroxiCare and Aquafresh Extreme Clean toothpastes.