Bacteria for healthy teeth

Source: scenta

A new chewing gum containing 'good bacteria' has been developed to fight tooth decay.

Good bacteria destroy the bad bacteria that cause teeth corrosion.

The gum, one of several by German company BASF, uses the Lactobacillus bacteria, commonly found in live yogurt.

BASF discovered and uses a new strain of lactobacillus called L. anti-caries, which binds to Streptococcus mutans – the tooth decay inducing bad bacteria.

S. mutans sticks to the surface of teeth, where it produces an aggressive acid that breaks down the enamel.

The friendly bacteria in the gum will cause S. mutans to attach to each other, and not onto the tooth surface.

Tests reveal that the chewing gum can reduce the amount of bacteria in the mouth fifty times.

Lactobacillus products developed for many uses

Stefan Marcinowski, executive director of research at BASF, said that a Lactobacillus product is due to hit the supermarkets in 2007, but would not confirm whether it is the chewing gum.

Marcinowski said that the chewing gum “has been tested on large numbers of people and demonstrated the ability to significantly reduce bacterial levels.”

A new range of toothpastes and mouthwashes using Lactobacillus anti-caries are also in the making.

Chewing gums containing the artificial sweetener xylitol, which has antimicrobial properties, have also been shown to suppress the bacteria that fight tooth decay.

Other uses of Lactobacillus could be in anti-perspirants.

BASF are looking into producing a deodorant based on L. aladoris, which can inhibit odour-producing bacteria.
in the armpit.

Similarly, tests have shown another strain, L. ala-odoris, can reduce odour formation in feet.

**Useful? Recommend it.**

If you found this item fun or informative, please let others know. Simply send to a friend or recommend it to even more people - on any of the following sites:

- reddit
- digg.com
- del.icio.us
- rollyo
- stumbleupon

Source: scenta

Date Published: August 21, 2006

Date Last Modified: August 21, 2006

View more items by this source

More on healthy teeth...

Rotting teeth from roasting vegetables

Mediterranean roasted vegetables may be one popular food trend that is healthy for the body but very bad for your teeth, new research claims.