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**Poster: Supporting oral health behaviour change in NHS primary dental care using salivary diagnostics.**

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**Background:** Saliva and plaque testing can potentially form an important component in tailoring oral health information and advice to patients in NHS primary dental care, yet such tests are rarely utilised in routine appointments.

**Objectives:** To assess the acceptability and feasibility of undertaking plaque and saliva testing within NHS primary dental care.

**Methods:** 192 patients (3-81 years,  $m=27.98$ ,  $sd=19.69$ ) underwent plaque and saliva testing in an UK NHS Dental Practice. Of these, 88 participants completed a questionnaire evaluation immediately post-test, and 8 participated in a focus group considering attitudes towards saliva testing and anticipated effects of testing on behaviour.

**Results:** More than half of patients completing the questionnaires understood the purpose of the tests (58%), understood what the test results indicated (57.9%) and felt more positive about their oral health as a consequence (53.4%). More than half stated they would change their diet (55.7%) or change their oral hygiene behaviours (57.9%) as a result of testing.

**Conclusions:** Plaque and saliva testing is feasible in a primary care setting and accepted by many patients as part of routine dental care. However, there may be a need for increased patient education to convey health benefits to patients.