



CORRIGENDUM

In the recent article by GC Raangs, EG Winkel and AJ van Winkelhoff (*In vitro* antimicrobial effects of two antihalitosis mouth rinses on oral pathogens and human tongue microbiota. *Int J Dent Hyg.* 2013; **11**: 203–207), the authors declared no potential conflicts of interest in the conduct of the study.

However, co-authors EG Winkel and AJ van Winkelhoff inadvertently did not disclose stock ownership in Dentaïd BeNeLux B.V., whose 0.05% chlorhexidine/0.05% cetylpyridinium chloride/0.14% zinc lactate mouthrinse product was evaluated as a part of the study reported in the article, via their company LabOral International.

Co-author EG Winkel inadvertently did not disclose stock ownership in an internet retail sales company Tandartsplein.nl. via his company Zephyr B.V., Tandartsplein.nl. publicly sells hundreds of dental care products, including the two mouthrinses evaluated in the study. No funding or product support for the research was provided by either of the two mouthrinse manufacturers.

Primary author GC Raangs continues to declare no potential conflicts of interest in the conduct of the study. The authors regret these unintentional oversights.

EDITORIAL NOTE: As editor of this journal, I accept the correction as being made to the conflict of interest statement of the above mentioned paper. The review of the suspected undisclosed conflicts of interest, and the decision to publish the corrigendum has been undertaken in accordance with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines on suspicion of undisclosed conflicts of interest in a published paper (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>).

I am happy to publish the corrigendum, but I am displeased with the fact that this statement is corrected after the review process and the publication of the paper. During the review process the authors were prompted multiple times to provide their conflict of interest statement and finally declared no conflict.

A conflict of interest is by definition a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest. Scientific peer review operates on a system of trust. It must by definition rely on the openness and honesty of authors, and failure to fully disclose any conflict, whether by forgetfulness or for other reasons, impedes the fair and correct evaluation of the scientific research conducted. It is therefore imperative for the reviewers and the editor to know beforehand under which circumstances the authors have performed their research. The journal urges future authors to critically review any potential conflicts of interest they may have and openly disclose these (<http://www.icmje.org/>).

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