



# Implant Maintenance with a Chitosan Brush –A Randomized Clinical Trial

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## Background

Peri-implant mucositis is common and it is reported that long term mucositis may induce peri-implantitis.<sup>1</sup> Treatment of mucositis and development easily applied methods for maintenance of dental implants is thus crucial. It is also important to avoid leaving instrument remnants potentially causing a foreign body reaction or to damage the titanium surface when debriding the implant.<sup>2</sup> Chitosan, a natural biopolymer, has been demonstrated to be biocompatible and biodegradable. Chitosan has also been suggested to have anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. In this study a rotating chitosan brush (Fig. 1.) was evaluated.

## Aim

The aim of the present study was to examine the change in clinical outcome after treatment of peri-implant mucositis with a rotating chitosan brush versus titanium curettes.

## Methods and Materials

This was a randomized, split mouth, examiner blinded, clinical trial of 6 months duration including 12 patients with 28 implants diagnosed with peri-implant mucositis. The study had been approved by the regional ethics committee. Implants were randomized to either treatment with a rotating chitosan brush (BioClean, LABRIDA AS, Oslo Norway) using a slow speed (4:1) dental handpiece or titanium curettes (Langer and Langer, Rønvig, Denmark). All clinical examinations were performed by two board-certified and calibrated periodontists (AMA, OCK) blinded to treatment allocation. Treatment was performed by a separate board-certified periodontist (JCW). The treatment was repeated at three months. Clinical examinations included probing pocket depth (PPD) with a defined force 0.2 N (20g) periodontal probe (University of North Carolina, DB764R, AESCULAP, B Braun Germany) and a modified bleeding on probing index (mBoP). Differences between groups in change in clinical parameters were compared at 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 6 months. A Mann-Whitney U test with an alpha level of 0.05 was used for the statistical analyses.

## Indexes

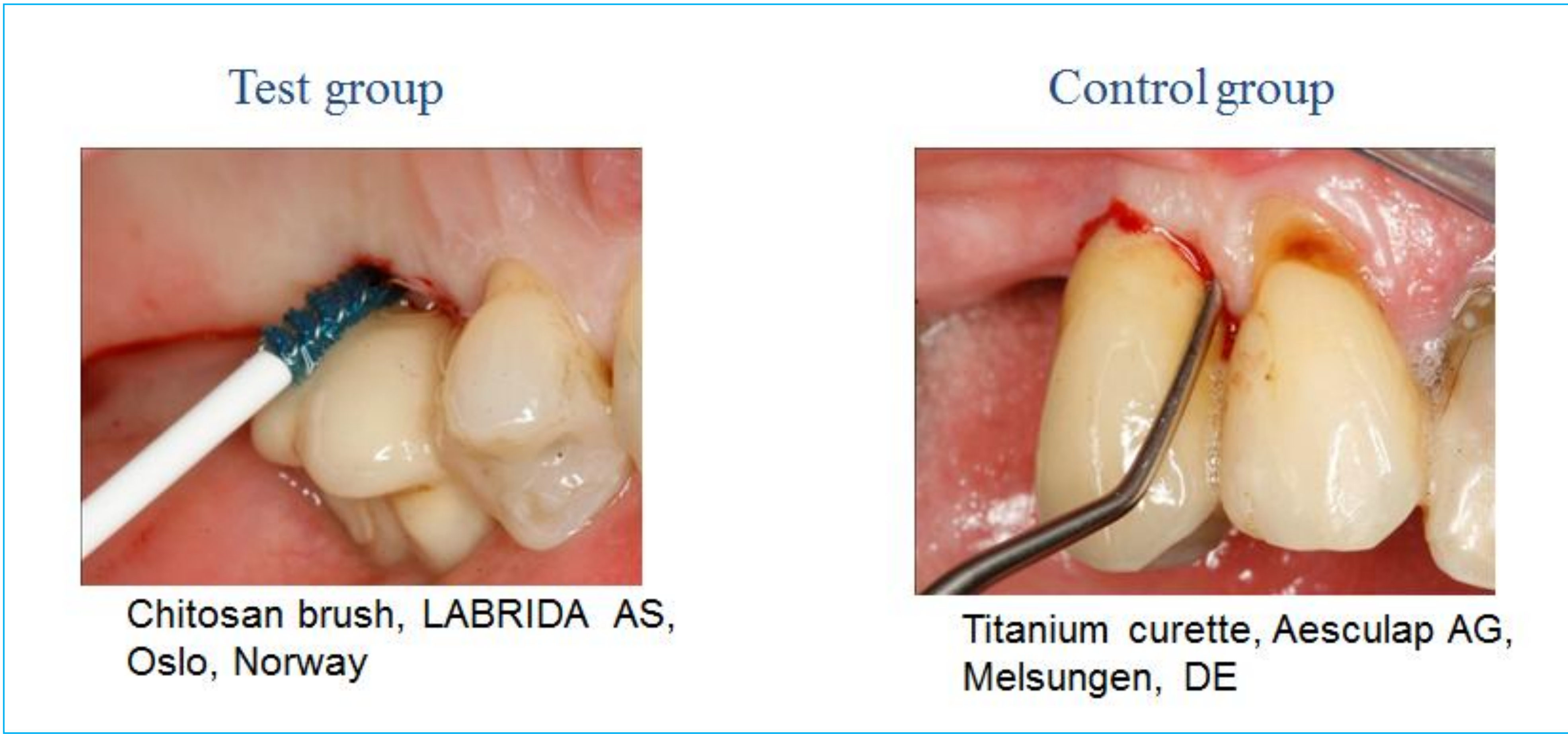
**mBoP:**  
**Score 0:** No bleeding 30 seconds after probing  
**Score 1:** Isolated minimal bleeding spots visible 30 seconds after probing.  
**Score 2:** Blood forms a confluent red line on margin 30 seconds after probing.  
**Score 3:** Heavy or profuse bleeding 30 seconds after probing.

## Results

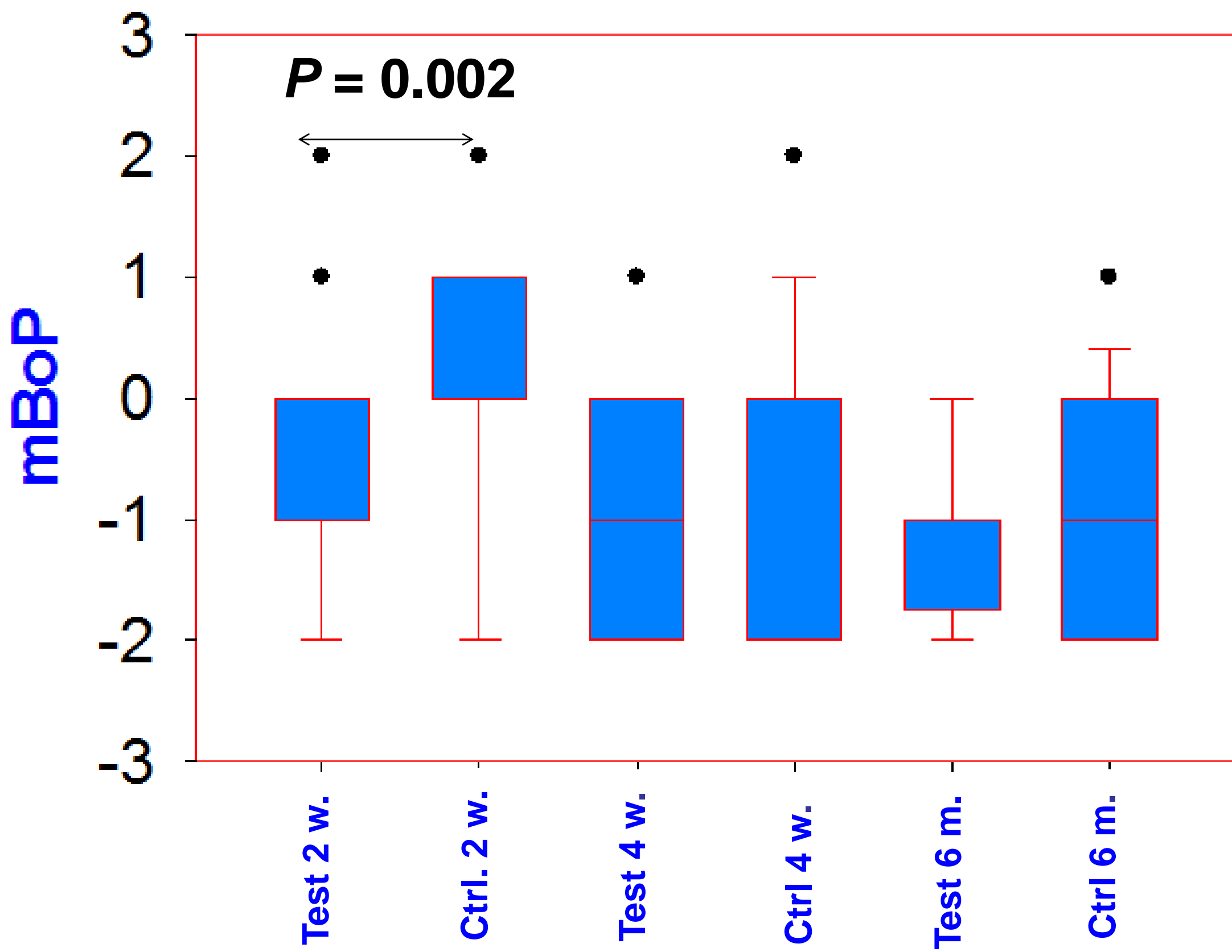
Both groups demonstrated significant reductions in clinical parameters between baseline and 4 weeks. The test implants treated with the chitosan brush had a better improvement in BoP at 2 weeks and a better improvement in PPD at 2 weeks and 4 weeks as compared with the implants treated with the titanium curettes, however no differences were found after 6 months. None of the implants demonstrated progression in bone-loss during the course of the study.



Fig. 1.The Test device. A twisted chitosan brush (BioClean™, LABRIDA AS, Oslo, Norway)



Variable	Mean ± SD (min, max)		P
	Test (n=14)	Control (n=14)	
PPD change 2 weeks (mm)	-0.37 ±1.18 (-4, 3)	0.00 ±0.74 (-2, 1)	0.01
PPD change 4 weeks (mm)	-0.74 ±1.14 (-5, 2)	-0.27 ±1.27 (-3, 3)	0.04
PPD change 6 months (mm)	-0.13 ±1.18 (-3, 2)	-0.17 ±0.74 (-2, 2)	0.72



## Conclusion

A chitosan brush seems to be a safe and more efficient device than titanium curettes for maintenance of dental implants. A European multicenter clinical study has been initiated.

## Reference

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- Mann M, Parmar D, Walmsley AD, Lea SC.Effect of plastic – covered ultrasonic scalers on titanium implant surfaces, Clin Oral Implants Res. 2012 Jan;23(1):76-82. Epub 2011 Apr 13

## Financial disclosure

Dr. Wohlfahrt and Dr. Lyngstadaas are the patentholders of BioClean and share holders in LABRIDA AS. The test material used in this study was sponsored by LABRIDA AS.