Abstract

There is a difference between individuals in their tendency to deposit DNA on an item when it is touched. This is known as the shedder status of an individual (Lowe et al 2002). The standard system for testing this is by holding an object for a specific period of time not oral secretion. However, to date no one has investigated the oral shedders status of an individual.

In this study, series of experiments were undertaken to design a system of testing the oral shedder status of an individual and to determine whether differences do exist in the general population. Results from this study showed that the oral DNA shedding seen in each individual differed both from day to day and from one method to the other.

The reason for these differences remains unclear and need further investigations. However, parameters such as the individual, the area of contact, the substrate handle, the history of previous touches, the type of mouth wash used when you are considering the oral shedding and lots of environmental factors have been speculated to have effect on the amount of DNA deposition. Due to these factors, it may be more complicated than previously reported to categorized individuals as being either a ‘good’ or a ‘bad’ DNA shedder.