

# New innovation reduces oral diseases while COVID-19 limits access to dental treatment

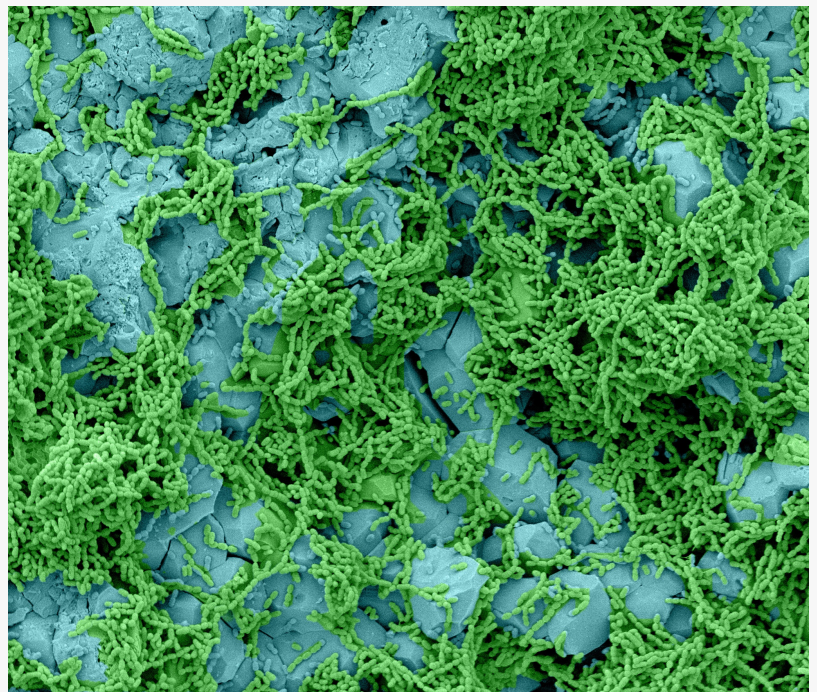
*Obtaining dental care is more difficult during the current pandemic. Researchers have introduced a home-use method for the prevention of dental disease.*

ESPOO, FINLAND, December 11, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Evidence suggests that patients with periodontitis and cavities have an increased risk of developing serious health problems including potentially more severe COVID symptoms. Researchers at Aalto University and Helsinki University Hospital in Finland have developed a home-use device to clean bacteria from teeth and gum surfaces. The Helsinki based research team believes this new innovation significantly improves dental hygiene and enhances home care, especially during times when reduced availability of dental appointments can exacerbate problems. The team has commercialized their research, and the light-activated mouthwash treatment is now available from their spinoff company Koite Health.

COVID-19 has significantly reduced access to regular treatment at dental clinics resulting in concern for the increase in chronic oral disease and the subsequent risk of serious infection. Chronic inflammation has been linked to over 100 chronic diseases and to 22 times higher risk of COVID-19 related respiratory involvement [1]. Dental diseases are among the



Lumoral product in use



Streptococcus mutans bacteria on hydroxyapatite disc (tooth surface model)

most common kinds of chronic inflammation. According to researchers, their home-use solution, [Lumoral](#), is designed for those who are or who may be troubled by oral diseases despite a regular oral hygiene routine.

Lumoral – antibacterial therapy targeted at dental plaque

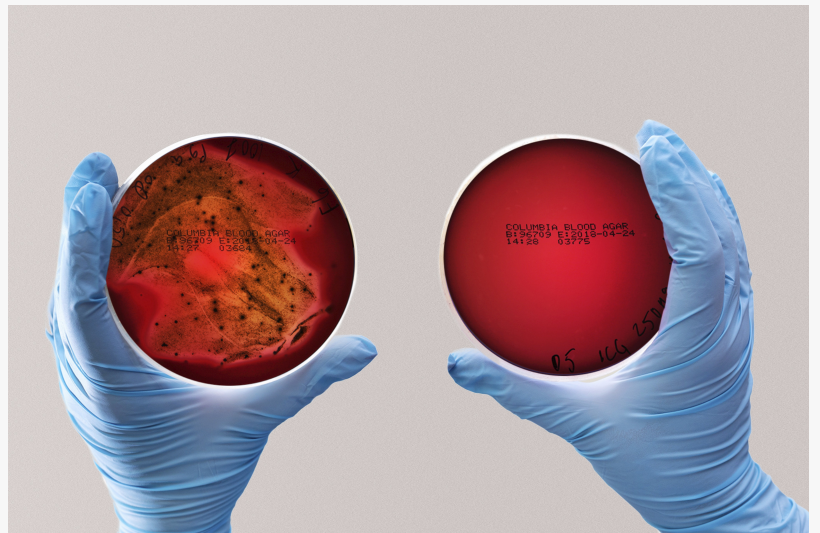
The group recently published a [clinical study](#), whereby the use of Lumoral reduced the number of dental pathogens which cause periodontitis and cavities, inhibited dental plaque formation, and reduced active gum inflammation [2]. “This study supports and extends our previous research, states Sakari Nikinmaa, the CEO of Koite Health. The research group published the [data](#) concerning the antibacterial efficacy of their method against one of the most important dental pathogens, *Streptococcus mutans*, earlier this year. “The method has been proven to work with high efficacy and this innovative science came just in time to help people suffering from certain aspects relating to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Nikinmaa adds.

Lumoral was launched in Finland in mid-2020, and so far, over 30,000 treatments have been completed. Customer feedback on the product and its effect on oral hygiene has been excellent. “With the daily use, our customers have reported reduced gingival bleeding, tartar formation, and fresher breath. Most importantly, we have increasing evidence of the positive effects on periodontal tissues. This is an area where we can really improve health all around the world,” says Nikinmaa.

With its successful initial launch in Finland, Koite Health is now expanding its product distribution globally with the first focus being on Europe and selected countries in Asia.



CEO of Koite Health Mr. Sakari Nikinmaa showing the research commercialized as Lumoral product



Gum disease-causing *Porphyromonas gingivalis* bacteria untreated (left) and Lumoral method treated (right)

[1] <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343852163> The Mouth-COVID Connection II-6 Levels in Periodontal Disease -Potential Role in COVID-19-Related Respiratory Complications

[2] <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.20187161v1>

## About Koite Health

Koite Health Ltd is founded in 2018 as a spinoff from Aalto University and is headquartered in Espoo, Finland. The company owns its core intellectual property for its thermal photodynamic therapy treatment. The company's product Lumoral ([www.lumoral.com](http://www.lumoral.com)) is registered as a class I medical device in Europe. Lumoral is now available in Europe and global expansion of product distribution will commence during 2021. The company is ISO9001 and ISO13485 certified.

## Background information

### COVID-19 related dental treatment debt

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54933313>
2. [https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/papers\\_corona\\_crisis\\_creates\\_million-visit\\_dental\\_care\\_backlog/11601590](https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/papers_corona_crisis_creates_million-visit_dental_care_backlog/11601590)

### Scientific articles published by Koite Health team

1. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0232775>
2. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.20187161v1>

Hi-resolution images can be downloaded here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZakC\\_O6UJ7BmjtK10bialOlVa2X8vRA](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZakC_O6UJ7BmjtK10bialOlVa2X8vRA)

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