PERTUMBUHAN KOLONI BAKTERI *Escherichia coli* PADA SALIVA ANAK DENGAN KEBIASAAN THUMB AND FINGER SUCKING

(THE GROWTH OF *Escherichia coli*'s COLONY IN CHILDREN WITH THUMB AND FINGER SUCKING HABIT)

**ABSTRACT**

**Background.** Thumb and finger sucking is one of the oral habit that often found in children under 4 years old. Thumb and finger sucking can act as carrier of numerous microorganisms from extra oral environment into the oral cavity. *Escherichia coli* is one of the microorganism from Enterobactericeae which has great number in environment. When *E.coli* entered and penetrating the body, it can become pathogenic and furthermore lead into several infection. **Purpose.** The aim of this study is to determine if there is a growth of *E.coli* colony in saliva in children with thumb and finger sucking habit. **Method.** Whole saliva is taken from 10 children with thumb and finger sucking habit and 10 children without thumb and finger sucking habit by dispossable plastic pippete. They were grown on Mac Conkey agar plate and incubated at 37°C. After 2 days, the presence of *E.coli* was identified by the characteristic of its colony. **Result.** There is no significant differences of the growth of *Escherichia coli*’s colony in children with and without thumb and finger sucking. **Conclusion.** The growth of *Escherichia coli* in children with and without thumb and finger sucking habit is the same, and it could be influenced by *E.coli* had already eliminated by the oral cavity’s normal flora before the saliva was taken.

**Keywords:** children, thumb and finger suking, oral habit, *Escherichia coli*