

ABSTRACT**Effect of Zinc on Zinc Saliva, Taste Acuity And Nutritional Status of Children Under Five After High Dose Vitamin A Supplementation**

Malnutrition is one of the five major nutrition problems in Indonesia. In children with nutritional condition will be exacerbated by the lack of zinc deficiency. Decreased immune function due to malnutrition and zinc deficiency. In addition, zinc deficiency affects the senses of taste function. Based on data from Basic Health Research (2007), 5.4% of children in Indonesia suffer from malnutrition. This means that 5.4% of Indonesian children under five also experienced zinc deficiency.

This study is a randomized experimental study using Pre Test Post Test Control Group Design with a Double Blind of treatment. The results showed that after the intervention, there were no differences in salivary zinc levels between the treatment group and control group with $p = 0.075$ ($\alpha = 0.05$). To taste acuity, the results showed significant differences sour taste ($p = 0.019$), salty ($p = 0.002$) and bitter ($p = 0.000$) between treatment and control groups. There are significant differences in energy consumption levels with $p = 0.041$ between treatment and control groups. Similarly, Z-score weight / height showed significant differences with $p = 0.025$.

From this research can be concluded that there are differences in taste acuity taste sour, salty and bitter, the level of energy consumption and the Z-score weight/height between treatment and control groups. With such efforts, it suggests the implementation of supplementation with zinc is expected to improve *taste* acuity and nutritional status of children.

Keywords: zinc salivary, taste acuity, nutritional status.