To successfully do this, it is vital that medications or an illness, making it lifestyle or a side-effect of essential condition. It can be the result of a comfortable, and sometimes painful, infection, which can lead to halitosis, speech and mastication. It also leaves potential antimicrobial and moisturising benefits and may be particularly useful before eating, speaking, and sleeping.

**Lactoperoxidase**
Lactoperoxidase is a peroxidase, milk enzyme from mammary, salivary, and other mucosal gland that has natural bacterial defense systems, and proves to be a useful ingredient for symptomatic therapy for those suffering from dry mouth syndrome (xerostomia). Its use in oral care products is to reduce oral bacteria and the acid produced by that bacteria and treat dry mouth. Lactoperoxidase can reduce plaque and treat gingivitis.

**Lactoferrin**
Lactoferrin is an iron scavenger, and can help iron absorption and immune modulation (changing immune system) and is also known to help kill bacteria, fungi and viruses.

**Glucose Oxidase**
Glucose Oxidase is an enzyme that converts glucose to hydrogen and oxygen. It is effective in mimicking the role of saliva, which will not only help maintain optimal oral care and prevent problems, but also improve and enhance their quality of life.

**Carbomer**
Carbomer produces a transparent, lubricating and moisturising film that coats the soft tissue mucosal surface to hold in moisture and provide relief to dry mouth. Carbomers are white, fluffy powders frequently used in gels, cosmetics, personal and oral care products and are used to optimise the rheological properties of aqueous solutions. These polymers have the ability to absorb and retain water and expand many times their original size, thus increasing the flow of saliva.

Although not limited to the elderly, xerostomia (dry mouth) is a common condition amongst this age group, due to age and prescription drug use. Saliva cleanses and moistens the mouth, aids food digestion, and contains an antibody that prevents harmful bacteria forming inside the mouth. Therefore, a lack of saliva can have a negative impact on a patient’s personal and social life, affecting speech and mastication. It also leaves sufferers more vulnerable to oral infection, which can lead to halitosis, and, if not treated, the harmful bacteria can cause gum disease, eventually resulting in tooth loss, in extreme cases.

There are many causes of this uncomfortable, and sometimes painful, condition. It can be the result of a lifetime of poor dental hygiene or a side-effect of essential medications or an illness, making it more difficult to treat. In the latter case, dental professionals will need to help patients manage dry mouth.

To successfully do this, it is vital that the dental team understand what products are available to help provide a long-term solution.

**Treating dry mouth**
Saliva replacement gels, which contain natural enzymes found in normal saliva, can help moisturise dry mouth, whilst effectively supporting the saliva’s natural defences, and nourishing and strengthening gums. However, for these gels to successfully do this, they must contain the following ingredients:

- Carbomer
- Carbomer produces a transparent, lubricating and moisturising film that coats the soft tissue mucosal surface to hold in moisture and provide relief to dry mouth. Carbomers are white, fluffy powders frequently used in gels, cosmetics, personal and oral care products and are used to optimise the rheological properties of aqueous solutions. These polymers have the ability to absorb and retain water and expand many times their original size, thus increasing the flow of saliva.

**Glucose Oxidase**
Glucose Oxidase is an enzyme that converts glucose to hydrogen and is added to oral care products to reduce the frequency of dry mouth complaints and increase saliva production. An essential element within the balanced enzyme system, Glucose Oxidase is designed to boost and replenish saliva’s own natural defenses whilst decrease oral bacteria. As a saliva substitute, Glucose Oxidase offers potential antimicrobial and moisturising benefits and may be particularly useful before eating, speaking, and sleeping.

- Lactoferrin
- This compound is from milk (lact-in) and is able to bind iron (ferrous). It is effective in mimicking the role of saliva by lubricating the oral cavity and controlling the existing normal oral microbiota. Lactoferrin is an essential human salivary defense protein and regularly used in oral care products, restoring the saliva’s own antimicrobial capacity in patients with dry mouth. Its antiviral and antibacterial agent helps iron absorption and immunomodulation (changing immune system) and is also known to help kill bacteria, fungi and viruses.

- Lactoperoxidase
- Lactoperoxidase is a peroxidase, milk enzyme from mammary, salivary, and other mucosal gland that has natural bacterial defense systems, and proves to be a useful ingredient for symptomatic therapy for those suffering from dry mouth syndrome (xerostomia). Its use in oral care products is to reduce oral bacteria and the acid produced by that bacteria and treat dry mouth. Lactoperoxidase can reduce plaque and treat gingivitis.

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By Beverly Hills Formula

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