

# Patterns and variability in electrophoretic polypeptide profiles of human saliva in a healthy population

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Electrophoretic polypeptide profiles of normal human saliva differ markedly between different reports. Since both methodological variations and polymorphism may explain these differences, in this study we aimed to establish whether or not the salivary electrophoretic polypeptide profiles of subjects from a healthy population share discrete molecular features. To this end, parotid, submandibular/sublingual and whole salivas were collected separately from each of 40 young and 34 elderly clinically healthy adults and processed for SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and Coomassie blue staining. Each type of glandular saliva displayed a different group of invariant (i.e. present in every subject) electrophoretic polypeptide bands while whole saliva showed a profile that reflected mostly the combined contribution of the major salivary glands. Some minor variant (i.e. absent in some subjects) bands were identified in each type of saliva. Regarding those interindividual variations, no age-