

Supplementary File S2

1.1. Tongue morphology assessment with NBI

1.1.1. The number of fungiform papillae

39 of 52 (75 %) patients were included in the within-group and between-group N_{papillae} analysis.

1.1.1.1. Within-group analysis

A Friedman test was run to determine if there were differences in N_{papillae} on the test and control side. Pairwise comparisons were performed with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons.

The N_{papillae} decreased statistically significantly during follow-up on a test side, $\chi^2(2) = 9.379$, $p = .009$. Post hoc analysis revealed statistically significant differences in N_{papillae} from preoperatively ($Mdn = 5$) to 2nd check-up ($Mdn = 4$) ($p = .017$) but not preoperatively to 1st check-up ($Mdn = 4$) and 1st to 2nd check-up.

On the control side, the N_{papillae} did not change statistically significantly from preoperative ($Mdn=4$), to 1st ($Mdn=5$) and to 2nd check-up ($Mdn=4$), $\chi^2(2) = 1.145$, $p = .564$.

1.1.1.2. Between-group analysis

A Mann-Whitney U test was run to determine if there were differences in the N_{papillae} between sides at each check-up.

At preoperative check-up data distributions of the N_{papillae} were similar for both sides, as assessed by visual inspection. N_{papillae} were not statistically significantly different between the test ($Mdn = 5$) and control side ($Mdn = 4$), $U = 858.500$, $z = 1.006$, $p = .315$.

At 1st check-up data distributions of the N_{papillae} were similar for both sides, as assessed by visual inspection. N_{papillae} were not statistically significantly different between the test ($Mdn = 4$) and control side ($Mdn = 5$), $U = 736.000$, $z = .026$, $p = .980$.

At 2nd check-up data distributions of the N_{papillae} were similar for both sides, as assessed by visual inspection. N_{papillae} were not statistically significantly different between the test ($Mdn = 4$) and control side ($Mdn = 4$), $U = 625.000$, $z = -1.427$, $p = .154$.