

Additional file 5 – Participants' baseline characteristics.

		ART	Hall Technique	p-value	Total
Age (years)	Mean (SD)	7.98 (±1.07)	8.21 (±1.22)		8.1 (±1.15)
	Minimum	5	6	0.254 ▲	5
	Maximum	10	10		10
Sex n (%)	Male	39 (60)	41 (62)	0.804 ‡	80 (61)
	Female	26 (40)	25 (38)		51 (39)
dmft/DMFT n (%)	1-2	20 (31)	27 (41)*		47 (36)
	3-4	22 (34)	23 (35)*	0.253 ‡	45 (34)
	≥5	23 (35)	15 (23)*		38 (29)
Tooth n (%)	Upper first primary molar (54/64)	19 (29)	17 (26)		36 (27)
	Upper second primary molar (55/65)	24 (37)	19 (29)		43 (33)
	Lower first primary molar (74/84)	19 (29)	27 (41)	0.557 ‡	46 (35)
	Lower second primary molar (75/85)	3 (5)	3 (4)		6 (5)

▲ = t-test

‡ = chi-square test

*One child in the HT group did not have dmft/DMFT collected by the operators at the baseline

**One child in the ART group did not have Plaque and Gingival index collected at the baseline

