Line 113. Can you clarify how you did the experiments and provide more information on biological and technical replicates? As currently written, it suggests that the discs were inoculated with a mix of the three bacteria and then divided between the four treatments. This would give 6 technical replicates with the experiment performed once (1 biological replicate). Or were there 24 discs for each bacterium, divided between the four treatments? If so, was this just done with one biological replicate for each bacterium?

Line 132. What was the rationale for incubating the bacteria for 24h rather than enumerating them immediately?

Line 225: The authors write "The reduction rates of total bacteria, Streptococci, and Candida in MC groups were significantly lower than those in the CTRL group (Fig. 4B)". I think this sentence should be reworded as its not clear if this means CTRL was better or worse than MC. If the reduction rates were lower this could be interpreted as the reduction was lower in MC compared to CTRL which is the opposite to what the data shows.

Figure 1: the legend has MC as white bars and sodium hypochlorite as grey bars but these are reversed in the legend provided on the graph. Which is correct?

Figure 3A. I think this figure would be much more effective if it was a stacked line graph rather than a very busy bar chart (see below). Given they are all significantly different, you don't need to add a star for each, you can just cite this in the legend.
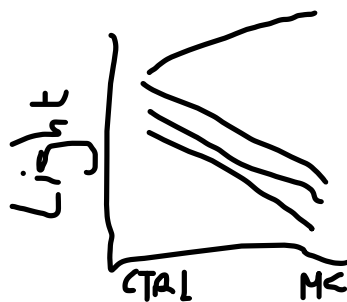

Figure 3B. I don't understand this graph. Shouldn't it be the ratio of the readings for each subject rather than all the subjects combined?

Figure 4A. I think this figure would be much more effective if the data was split into 3 graphs – one for total bacteria, one for candida and one for streptococci, and each one presented as stacked line graphs comparing CTRL and MC as suggested for Fig. 3A.

Figure 4B. Please convert this to a log scale to better show the data.