Most sugar-free chewing gums in Middle East lack clear labelling on xylitol

By DTI

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT: The majority of sugar-free chewing gums containing xylitol that are sold in the Coop eration Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) countries do not have clear labelling regarding xylitol content, a new study has found.

According to the researchers, the product labels mention neither the recommended daily dose of xylitol nor the actual amount of xylitol in the gums or lozenges. A consumer should be informed of the contents and the amount used in the product so that he can make an informed decision,

“Looking at the percentage, it is not easy for the consumer to calculate the actual amount of xylitol in grams. A consumer should be informed of the contents and the amount used in the product so that he can make an informed decision,” Al-Anzi told the Middle Eastern newspaper Muscat Daily.

The researchers have therefore recommended clear, accurate labelling of all xylitol-containing gums sold in the GCC countries and advised dental associations in the Middle Eastern region to adopt the general recommendations for labelling of current xylitol products.

The study, titled “Xylitol chewing gums on the market: Do they prevent cavities?”, was published online in the Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry journal on 12 May.

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