

**Table 3 Comparison of students' practices and dental status between 1998 and 2003**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>1998–999 (n = 155) %</b>	<b>2002–2003 (n = 140) %</b>	<b>Success rate in exams (%)</b>
Males	42.0	38.6	83.0
Females	58.0	61.4	95.5
Future practice			<b><math>\chi^2</math>, Significance</b>
Private	61.3	75.0	6.33, $P < 0.01$
Undecided	30.0	3.6	18.53, $P < 0.0001$
Practised oral hygiene	77.4	86.5	3.99, $P < 0.05$
Use of commercial toothpaste	70.0	91.4	19.72, $P < 0.0001$
Use of additional means of hygiene	30.3	50.0	34.11, $P < 0.0001$
Ever visited dentist	63.2	90.7	30.7, $P < 0.0001$
Mild malocclusion	28.4	48.6	12.7, $P < 0.0001$
Periodontal pockets (4–5 mm)	20.0	7.1	10.16, $P < 0.001$
Dental caries	70.3	42.8	22.68, $P < 0.0001$
Therapeutics index (had undergone dental treatment)	19.1	51.6	34.97, $P < 0.0001$