

THRESHOLD LEVEL FOR TASTES AMONG YOUNGER POPULATION IN THE KLANG VALLEY

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This study was conducted to investigate the threshold levels for tastes of sweet, sour, salty and bitter among younger adults in Klang Valley using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS). Additionally, the study was designed to provide information about tolerance of sour taste in 30 female and 28 male undergraduate students of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Participants were presented with 1cm³ gelatin samples flavoured with four tastants of increasing intensities. Results showed, higher taste threshold level across all four tastants as compared to the taste threshold in the West, 0.010M. Mean value for sweet taste was 0.0053M compared to taste thresholds in the West, 0.010M. Mean value for sour taste was 0.033M compared to the taste thresholds in the West, 0.023M. Besides, mean value for salty taste was 0.017M compared to taste thresholds in the West, 0.010M. Bitter taste also shows higher taste threshold concentration 2×10^{-5} MM compared to taste thresholds in the West, 8×10^{-6} M. Data analysis for the sour taste tolerance presented with significant differences between male and female (statistic test F value (2.626) = $p < 0.05$). However, a comparison of the sour taste threshold between race shows no significant differences (statistic test F value (2,55) = 2.329, $p > 0.05$). There is evidence that the sour bolus improves swallowing by triggering the pharyngeal muscle. Therefore, this study maybe beneficial as an introduction and reference for further investigation of taste and the crucial role it plays in the physiology of swallowing. However, further research is recommended to evaluate the reliability of the data.

Abd Razak, A.N.R 2008. Threshold Level for Tastes Among Younger Population in the Klang Valley. Bachelor of Speech Science thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.