

The Sarkissian Report

Dentistry News

Early Childhood Caries

Early Childhood Caries (ECC), or previously known as "bottle decay" is a phenomenon still poorly understood, but pretty widespread. Many parents notice their 2-4 year olds developing widespread cavities on their front teeth, in spite of the fact that they may be extremely cautious with their diet and oral hygiene. In the past it was associated with babies sucking on their formula milk bottle in bed and going to sleep

with it, thus creating an environment for the decay-causing bacteria to thrive on the pooled and fermenting milk on the surface of their teeth. Nowadays there seem to be other aggravating factors, and thorough attention has to be given by parents to keep the teeth clean from the bacteria that cause this condition.

Diet, proper oral hygiene, Xylitol gels, some homeopathic rem-



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edies, and proactive dentistry can all be used to prevent or slow down this condition.

Oral Cancer

We now offer an important adjunctive screening test, the Vizilite.

An annual ViziLite Plus exam, after a conventional visual examination, represents an integral part of comprehensive oral-cancer screenings. The screenings help dentists detect oral cancer in its early stages, as well as precancerous tissue. Detection promotes early intervention and prolongs life expectancy.

In the past, oral cancer

predominately struck men, adults over 40, African Americans, smokers and heavy alcohol drinkers. "ViziLite® Plus with TBlue630" - the cancer-screening procedure - is simple, quick, non-invasive, pain-free and effective. Humana Dental will cover the screening once a year beginning April 1, 2008. Other insurance companies I believe will or may have already started to follow.

Latest dental news

- According to the Oral Cancer Foundation, approximately 34,000 people will be affected by oral cancer in the United States this year and roughly 8,000 will die. This translates to one death every hour of every day.
- A 2007 study conducted by researchers at Johns Hopkins University and published by the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) nowadays is strongly associated with oral cancer among people even without traditional risk factors of tobacco and alcohol abuse.

Biological Dentistry

For bruising and soreness after a dental procedure, perhaps the most widely known remedy is **Arnica**, which can be taken in 12, 30, or 200 potency a few times on the day of the procedure. Depending on other accompanying symptoms or aggravations, it can be combined (at least half an hour apart) with **Belladonna** (throbbing pain, flushed face), **Ruta** (TMJ soreness, sore ligaments or sore teeth due to a heavy bite), **Pyrogenium** (infection, fever, sepsis).

Generally, the more intense the symptoms, the more frequent the dosage. The potency, however, is increased only as the symptoms become more deep-rooted on the psychological or emotional disposition of the person.

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ECC FACTS

- ECC develops as a result of very early colonization of the baby's mouth with streptococcus mutans bacteria.
- The bacterial colonies covering the teeth, known as plaque, will process sugars coming into contact with them and produce acid as a by-product, which in turn will cause enamel to become softer and porous. These white chalky lesions will then progress into the more advanced decay seen in rotting teeth, especially in upper incisors of children between the ages of 2 and 4.
- Recent research shows that breastfeeding and its duration are not associated with the risk for early childhood caries. Independent associations with increased risk for early childhood caries are rather

older child age, poverty, and maternal prenatal smoking. Some ethnic groups were independently associated with severe early childhood caries.

Find more information on children and their dental care at www.SarkissianDDS.com



The History of Dentistry



In ancient times, as well as in some modern-day primitive tribes, tooth mutilations have carried ritualistic or cosmetic importance. One of the most notable examples is the famous Mayan skulls which still carry teeth inlaid with precious stones. These inlays were made of a variety of minerals of beautiful colours, including jadeite, iron pyrites, hematite, turquoise, quartz, serpentine and cinnabar.

Implants

The history of dental implants begins more than 1300 years ago with the ancient Mayans. Back in 600 AD, a young woman was missing some of her lower teeth. The same as any modern woman, she wanted her smile beautified. She received what is perhaps one of the world's first dental implants. It was made from pieces of shell shaped to resemble teeth.

Interesting tooth facts

- The white shell of enamel covering our teeth is the hardest substance in our body.
- Enamel has growth rings just like trees. The growth pattern may be interrupted at any phase during the embryonic phase of tooth formation, such as an intense episode of malnutrition, emotional stress or disease, giving rise to changes in these growth rings. Sometimes these can be so pronounced that we see them as ring-like defects around baby or adult teeth, depending on when the growth retardation occurred in early life. These defects are sometimes called "enamel hypoplasia", and are more prone to decay. Depending upon which teeth they are found on and which part of the tooth they are located on, we can extrapolate to the time period, within a few months, in which that interruption happened in pre-partum or post-partum life.

Lovers' Tryst?

Girl: 'Darling, your teeth remind me of the stars.'

Boy: 'Because they gleam and sparkle?'

Man: 'No, because they come out at night!'