

Can Sealants Reduce the Risk of Caries in Primary Molars?

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In a new study, it was found that with coverage of primary molars with sealants, these teeth are less prone to caries. The researchers also found that the sealants delay the need for restorative work on these teeth. Previous researches have focused on the benefits of sealants for permanent molar teeth; unfortunately, few studies have addressed their effects on the primary teeth. The present study which was conducted by Michael Hong and his colleagues shows that their findings provide the necessary evidence to support sealants in young children.

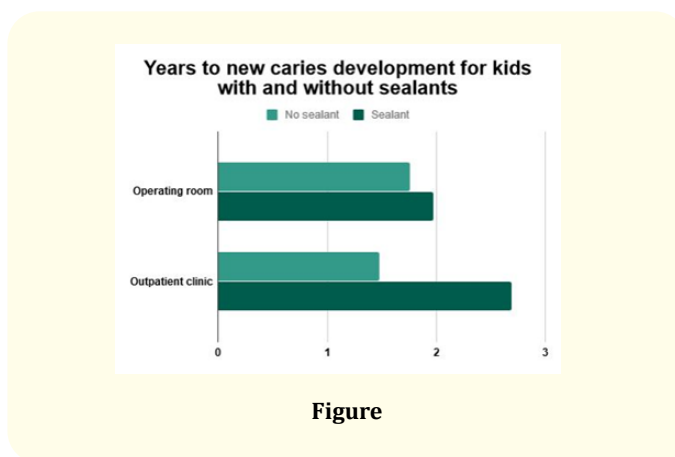
Dr. Hong believes that dental sealants are associated with a decrease in caries and a delay in the development of new caries in primary molars. The study was published in the August issue of 2019 in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* [1].

The researchers focused their research on children at the age of 5 and younger with a high risk of caries. They only examined children with at least two years of follow-up information and distinguished patients in terms of the time of referring and receiving sealants.

The first group consisted of children referred to the outpatient dental clinic in the hospital who received at least sealant coverage on one primary molar.

The second group was children who received no sealants.

The results showed that the children who had sealant on the primary molar had significantly fewer new caries.



Figure

According to Dr. Hong, delays in caries, along with the placement of sealants on primary molars, may delay the need for reconstructive interventions until the child has sufficient cognitive development and emotional maturity to sit and tolerate the treatment on the dental chair; consequently, advanced behavioral guidance protocols, including sedation and general anesthesia, will not be required.

Although the study focused on children in a hospital and the results may not be generalized to methods that do not use the same anti-rotation and risk management protocols, but the researchers hope that their findings will help provide growing evidence of the use of sealants on deciduous teeth to prevent tooth decay, delay healing and even save money for insurers.

Finally, primary molar sealants can save money by reducing the need for restorative treatments. Future research could expand the cost-effectiveness of sealants on primary molars, especially since insurance companies are trying to removing the primary molar sealants from the insurance coverage programs.

Bibliography

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