

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by John R. Radford.

'TEETHING PRODUCES NOTHING BUT TEETH'

Teething: myths and facts

Sood S, Sood M. *J Clin Pediatr Dent* 2010; 35: 9–14

'born with a silver spoon in his mouth' denotes borne into wealth and privilege. This adage is derived from a teething remedy that was used by the affluent.

The key message from this paper is that if an infant has severe signs of systemic disease, this should not be ascribed to teething. The child should be referred without delay to a physician. This narrative review is full of apocryphal tales: should a child see themselves in a mirror before their first tooth has erupted they will suffer from epilepsy, early eruption of teeth is a sign of great intelligence, yet a misfortune to the family if the child is born with teeth in their mouth. Eruption of primary incisor teeth occurs at the same time as a reduction in maternal humoral immunity. This, and not teething, is the reason why infants succumb to illnesses at this age. The authors describe pharmacological treatments and a myriad of local measures for the 'irritation' associated with teething, including the chilled silver spoon.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2011.333

DENTAL EROSION – WINE TASTERS

Dental erosive wear among Norwegian wine tasters

Mulic A, Tveit AB *et al. Acta Odontol Scand* 2011; 69: 21–26

'only 50% of examined participants (wine tasters) had erosive wear' and of those that had wear, there was no clear link with how long they had carried out tasting.

The test group comprised all the wine-tasters (n = 18) that were employed by AS Vinmonopolet, the state-owned retail monopoly that sells alcohol in Norway. These are referred to by some as the 'taste bureaucracy'. Using a visual method of quantifying tooth erosion, half the wine-tasters showed tooth erosion compared with only twenty percent in the control group. The investigators also found almost forty percent of the wine-tasters had dentine involvement, with less than ten percent in the control group. The authors cite others that urge to not only refrain from brushing after, but also before the consumption of erosive foods. Abrasives in toothpaste may reduce the thickness of pellicle with its protective effect.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2011.334

BACTERIAL ADHESION TO AESTHETIC DENTAL MATERIALS

Effect of different finishing techniques for restorative materials on surface roughness and bacterial adhesion

Aykent F, Yondem I *et al. J Prosthet Dent* 2010; 103: 221–227

Regardless of finishing and polishing methods, fewer bacteria adhered to a ceramic material compared with two indirect and a direct composite resin material.

Using confocal microscopy, this study quantified the number of bacteria (*Streptococcus mutans* NCTC 10449) that adhered to blocks of different dental aesthetic materials following various finishing techniques. Significantly fewer bacteria adhered to the ceramic material (VITABLOCS Mark II), compared with two indirect and one direct composite resin. None of the finishing techniques were able to reduce the subsequent adherence of bacteria on the indirect and direct composite resin materials, to those numbers enumerated on the ceramic material. The investigators also looked for an association between surface roughness and bacterial adhesion. They found a positive correlation between 'surface roughness and vital bacterial adhesion'.

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DENTAL EROSION – CHILDREN

A literature review of dental erosion in children

Taji S, Seow WK. *Aust Dent J* 2010; 55: 358–367

There is an association between dental erosion and dental caries.

As the enamel of the primary dentition is thinner and less mineralised than that of the permanent dentition, the deciduous dentition is more susceptible to dental erosion. The reported prevalence of tooth erosion in the primary dentition varies widely from ten percent to over eighty percent. This may be because different indices have been used to quantify erosion and, it is difficult to distinguish erosion from other forms of tooth wear. A systematic review is cited which reports that 23.4% of children with asthma have GORD compared with only 3.8% of children without asthma. However, the relationship between GORD *per se* and dental erosion is not as straightforward as some would suggest. Most papers report an association between dental erosion and extrinsic acids and between erosion and dental caries.

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