

Dental caries, oral health behavior and oral health care in dentists' children less than 6 years old

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The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between caries experience and oral health behaviors in dentists' children aged less than 6 years old. The data was collected by mailing questionnaires and dental caries examination sheets to 1028 dentists aged between 32-35 years old. The total completed returned questionnaire was 294 (28.6%). 138 dentist's children with mean age 3.18 ± 1.6 years old were enrolled in the analysis. There were 54 children (39.1%) who used to fall asleep with bottle. For children who already weaned, the average age of weaning was 2.1 ± 0.9 years old. The mean dmft of 3-5 years old. Consumption of between-meal snack in the previous day was found in 116 children (89.9%). The dentists started to brush their children's teeth at the age of 9.3 ± 4.9 months old and the age of start using toothpaste was 2.2 ± 0.9 years old. The mean dmft of 3-5 years old children was 1.1. The bivariate analysis found that the present caries children had a higher proportion of falling asleep with bottle and eating between-meal snack behavior than absent caries children (Chi-square $p < 0.05$). On the other hand, factors such as the age at start of brushing, and of using fluoride toothpaste, the use of fluoride supplements and the topical fluoride application were not different in the present or the absent caries children. Based on these associations, it is concluded that the bottle feeding and dietary behavior should be ones of the considerate strategies in order to prevent caries in young children.

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