

Early Childhood Caries AKA Baby Bottle Tooth Decay

Tooth decay that occurs in infants or toddlers (up to age 6) is referred to as early childhood caries or, more commonly, as baby bottle tooth decay. Baby bottle tooth decay is the most common disease found in children in the U.S. and gets its name from being caused most often by babies and toddlers falling asleep with a bottle that contains a sweetened drink, such as fruit juices, formulas, or milk. Baby bottle tooth decay is highly preventable with good oral hygiene, feeding, and drinking habits and can be treated by a dentist.

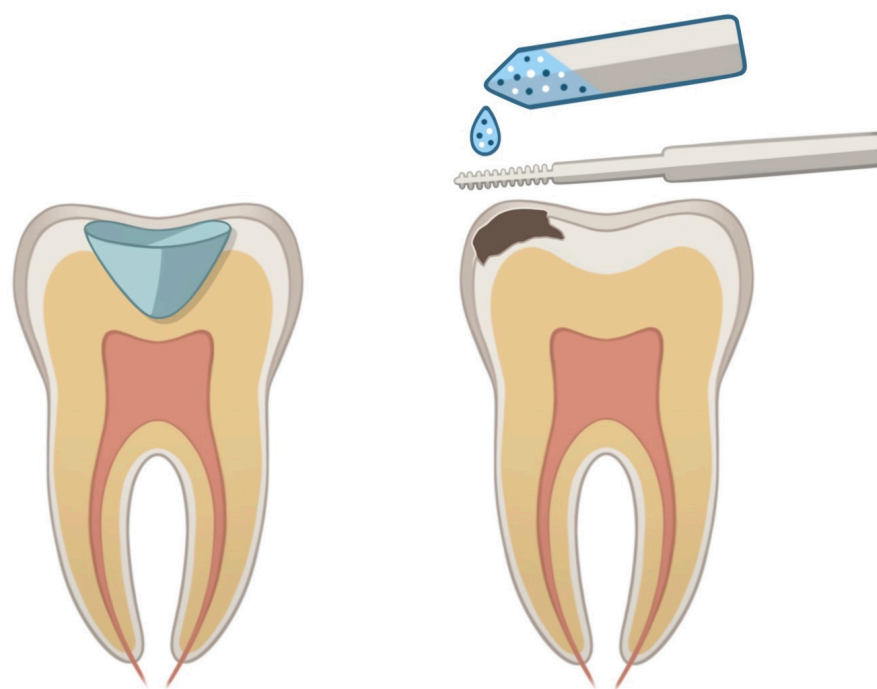


What Causes Baby Bottle Tooth Decay?

- Frequent bottle feeding at night
- Exposure of bacteria to the baby teeth
- Eating too much sugar and unhealthy snacks
- Poor oral hygiene
- Inadequate amounts of fluoride

How to treat Baby Bottle Tooth Decay?

- Apply fluoride to the remineralized teeth
- Remove decay and apply fillings
- Sealing the tooth to keep the cavities from spreading.
- In severe cases the tooth is extracted



How to Prevent Baby Bottle Tooth Decay?

- Be conscious of your child when bottle feeding
- Regularly clean child's teeth
- Never let your child sleep or walk around for long periods of time with a bottle of juice or milk
- Avoiding prolonged pacifier use
- Never dip pacifiers in honey or any other sugary substances.

