Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sealant Guidelines

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“School-based sealant programs are an effective public health approach to preventing caries…”

CDC’s update for SBSPs, complement ADA’s 2008 clinical recommendations for dental sealants.

Dr Gooch, CDC Officer: “We hope that by reading this article dentists will become more aware of the effectiveness of School-based sealant programs and have the information they need to advocate for and encourage collaboration with public health efforts”
In 2004 and 2005, CDC sponsored a meeting of experts to update recommendations for the use of sealants in school-based sealant programs (SBSPs).

CDC’s last sealant review and update was in 1994.

The findings were published in JADA, November 2009. “Preventing dental caries through school-based sealant programs: Update recommendations and reviews of evidence”.

CDC Recommendations

“Indications for Sealant Placement”

• “Seal sound and noncavitated pit and fissure surfaces of posterior teeth, with first and second permanent molars receiving highest priority.”

CDC Recommendations

“Tooth Surface Assessment”

(Differentiating noncavitated and cavitated lesions)

• “Unaided visual assessment is appropriate and adequate.”

• “Dry teeth before assessment with cotton rolls, gauze or, when available, compressed air.”

• “An explorer may be used to gently confirm cavitations (that is, breaks in the continuity of the surface); do not use a sharp explorer under force.”

CDC Recommendations

“Tooth Surface Assessment”

(Differentiating noncavitated and cavitated lesions)

• “Radiographs are unnecessary solely for sealant placement.”

• “Other diagnostic technologies are not required.”

CDC Recommendations
“Sealant Placement and Evaluation”
(Cleaning the tooth surface)

- “Toothbrush prophylaxis is acceptable.”

- “Additional surface preparation methods, such as air abrasion or enamelplasty, are not recommended.”

- “These topics should be considered in the context of the essential steps in sealant placement, including cleaning pits and fissures, acid-etching surfaces and maintaining a dry field while the sealant is placed and cured.”

CDC Recommendations
“Sealant Placement and Evaluation”

• “Use a four-hand technique, when resources allow.

• “Seal teeth of children even if follow-up cannot be ensured.”

• “Evaluate sealant retention within one year.”

Recommendation

Summary

• “Programs should seal pit-and-fissure tooth surfaces that are sound or have early decay, prioritizing first and second permanent molars.”

• “Programs should use visual assessment to differentiate surfaces with the earliest signs of tooth decay from more advanced lesions.”

Recommendation

Summary

• “Programs should consider toothbrush prophylaxis as an acceptable method to clean the tooth surface before acid etching.”

• “Programs should use four-hand technique to place sealants, when resources allow.”

• Remember to follow manufacture instructions, and maintain a dry field while placing sealants.

Questions
&
Answers
Thank You

Special thanks to
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References


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