How to keep one- to three-year-olds cavity free

VICENZA -- My name is Dr. Matthew Eusterman (call me "Dr. E"), and I am the new pediatric dentist at Vicenza Dental Clinic. February was Children's Dental Health Month and I want to take this opportunity to give parents critical information to create a cavity-free home from the youngest ages.

Here are my top tips for infants and toddlers related to dental health:

Baby bottle cavities

Parents may ask, "Do infants and toddlers get cavities?" and, unfortunately, the answer is a sad "yes." The majority of cases I have had to treat at these younger ages are almost entirely related to bottle usage in the crib. Well-intentioned parents desiring a sound sleeping baby will put their child to bed with a bottle of milk. During the night the child drinks the milk to stay asleep and, in turn, bathes the teeth in sugar-causing cavities. This can also happen with breast milk when the child nurses throughout the night. Rule of thumb: Never put your child to bed with anything in the bottle except water.

Cavities are contagious

Yes, you heard me right. Cavities are caused by bacteria and when your child was born his mouth was bacteria free. During the first years of life, a child acquires bacteria from their surroundings. "Who" is their surroundings these early years? Yup, parents and siblings. If mom, dad, sister or brother have a history of cavities, this means they have a type of bacteria that can cause cavities.

---

DHC-- Europe

Follow the link to photos and comments from DHC-Europe.

Prosthodontic Consultant (63F)

Greetings from the 63F/Prosthodontic community. Hope you all had a great ACP/ACPEF National Prosthodontics Awareness Week! We are excited to have the opportunity to share valuable information in this reestablished Dental Corps Bulletin.

The Endo-Perio-Pros Short Course took place from 27-30 March at Ft Gordon and was also offered by Video Teleconference. If you did not get a chance to attend the course, it will soon be available on the GDE blackboard.

We are looking for a 63F Deputy Consultant. This is a great opportunity for young leaders to shine, get some valuable experience, and input in the specialty. For those interested in this position, please refer to the email recently sent by the Pros Consultant containing instructions on how to apply. We would also like to build a list of prosthodontists interested in teaching either at the Ft Gordon Residency Training Program or at any of our AEGD Programs. Consider this opportunity for growth and if interested in submitting your name, please do so by returning the Prosthodontic Data Form recently sent out by the Pros Consultant.

It sure has been a very rewarding couple of months for Army Prosthodontics with many of our prosthodontists accomplishing great things! Amongst those are our four recent Diplomates of the American Board of Prosthodontics (LTC Young Kang, MAJ Lucero SanabriaParrilla, MAJ Stephen Peterman, and CPT Bryan McLaughlin). Additionally, CPT Bryan McLaughlin’s research manuscript was ranked as the top six in the ACP John J. Sharry Research competition which serves to stimulate and acknowledge original research in prosthodontics by residents. He was therefore invited to present as a finalist at the ACP Annual Session in Oct 2016. CPT McLaughlin also took first place in the American Equilibration Society Research Competition and 3rd place in the Joseph L. Bernier Research Awards Competition. CPT Kerin Jamison did an excellent job representing the Army when presenting a scientific poster at the AAFP meeting on 25 Feb and by publishing a very interesting article in the winter issue of the ACP Messenger. We also enjoyed successful research publication in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. This past October, LTC Young Kang’s publication appeared in the journal, and MAJ Sergio Munoz’s publication appeared online and will be printed in near future edition of the journal.

We would like to recognize all great accomplishments from our prosthodontics community. To all Leaders, please take the time to inform the Pros Consultant of significant accomplishments by any of your prosthodontists. Without your input, I am certain some well-deserved recognitions will not be shared within the Dental Corps.

Hooah!