

Christian Splieth (Editor)



Innovations in Preventive Dentistry

Orthodontics
Silver fluorides
Self-assembling peptides
Activity
Lesion control
Caries
Lifestyle
Periodontitis
Medically compromised patients
Minimally invasive dentistry
Healthy dental and oral behavior
Fluorides
Antibiotics
Diagnostics
Nutrition
Fissure sealing
Oral hygiene
Probiotics
Sugar

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Preface

Preventive dentistry is a cross-sectional success story that has produced a 90% caries decline in children and adolescents, as well as caries reductions in adults in many countries. Periodontology and orthodontics also offer great opportunities for prevention ... and prevention in all fields of dentistry has grown from primary prevention through maintaining a healthy state to new concepts of secondary prevention, where initial lesions or imbalances are corrected with minimal intervention. In addition, therapy has shifted from repair to tertiary prevention to regain physiologic and healthy balances that ensure long-lasting therapeutic success.

In order to introduce these new developments and innovations into preventive and clinical dentistry for all ages, a group of internationally recognized specialists presents new diagnostic methods and offers options for putting these into practice both for primary prevention and for non- and minimally invasive treatment. With the introduction of

a systematic, evidence-based approach in dentistry, new standards for clinical care are being established in all fields of dentistry, stressing prevention-oriented routines. The understanding of caries and periodontal disease has shifted from a focus on invasive treatment to controlling disease activity, and in orthodontics from mechanics to achieving physiologic function. The various chapters highlight this shift, in addition to a clinical view, the overall concept, interaction with general health, and the common risk-factor approach. The authors offer perspectives for tackling dental and medical problems in the vulnerable populations that exhibit most of the dental and medical disease.

Preventive dentistry has changed for epidemiologic, social, and scientific reasons. Professionals should manage this development actively for the benefit of patients in all fields of dentistry and for all ages.

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Abbreviations

AAPD , American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	MIH , molar incisor hypomineralization
ACFP , amorphous calcium fluoride phosphate	NCD , noncommunicable disease
ACP , amorphous calcium phosphate	NHS , National Health Service
ACPA , anti-citrullinated protein antibody	NNT , number needed to treat
AD , Alzheimer disease	NOCTP , nonoperative caries treatment program
ART , atraumatic restorative therapy	NRCC , nonrestorative cavity control
BL , bone loss	NSF , nano silver fluoride
BMI , body mass index	OHI , oral hygiene instruction
BOP , bleeding on probing	OHRQoL , oral health-related quality of life
CAL , clinical attachment level	OR , odds ratio
CHALO , Child Health Action to Lower Oral Health and Obesity	ORCA , European Organisation for Caries Research
CI , confidence interval	OSAS , obstructive sleep apnea syndrome
CPP , casein phosphopeptide	PAD , peptidylarginine deiminase
CRFA , Common Risk Factor Approach	PD , probing depth
CRP , C-reactive protein	PISA , periodontal inflamed surface area
DIFOTI , digital imaging fiber-optic transillumination	PMPR , professional mechanical plaque removal
DHSW , Dental Health Support Worker	PSI , Periodontal Screening Index
DM , diabetes mellitus	QLF , quantitative light-induced fluorescence
dmfs , decayed, missing, or filled surfaces	RME , rapid maxillary expansion
DMFT , decayed, missing, or filled teeth	RR , relative risk
EADPH , European Association of Dental Public Health	RRR , relative risk reduction
ECC , early childhood caries	SaC , Specific affected Caries Index
EHCP , Essential Health Care Program	SAPM , self-assembling peptide matrix
EPS , extracellular polymeric substances	SDF , silver diammine fluoride
FOTI , fiber-optic transillumination	SDG , Sustainable Development Goal
GA , general anesthesia	S-ECC , severe early childhood caries
GBR , guided bone regeneration	SES , socioeconomic status
GER , guided enamel regeneration	SCT , social cognitive theory
GTR , guided tissue regeneration	SiC , Significant Caries Index
GWAS , genome-wide association studies	SMART , silver modified atraumatic restorative technique
HA , hydroxyapatite	SNP , single nucleotide polymorphism
IADR , International Association for Dental Research	SPT , supportive periodontal therapy
ICDAS , International Caries Detection and Assessment System	SSB , sugar-sweetened beverages
IgA , immunoglobulin A	TMD , temporomandibular disorders
IL , interleukin	TNF , tumor necrosis factor
MFP , monofluorophosphate	VAS , visual analog scale
MI , motivational interviewing	WASH , water, sanitation, and hygiene
	WHO , World Health Organization
	WIC , Women, Infants, and Children program

Understanding caries



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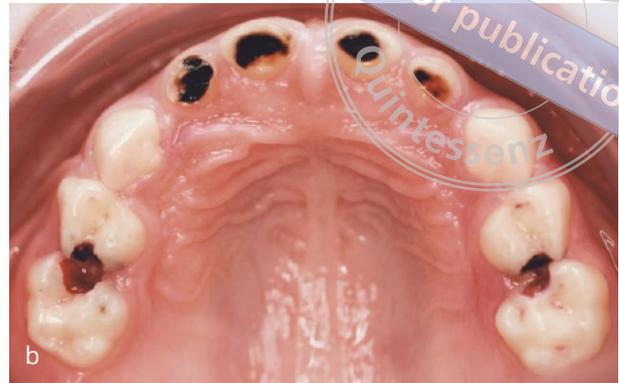
In their new consensus statement on the terminology of dental caries and dental caries management, the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA) and the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) define caries as “a bio-film-mediated, diet modulated, multifactorial, noncommunicable, dynamic disease resulting in net mineral loss of dental hard tissues. It is determined by biologic, behavioral, psychosocial and environmental factors. As a consequence of this process, a caries lesion develops.”¹ This very modern definition is based on the concept that caries is an imbalance of demineralization and remineralization that results from a dysbiosis of the oral biofilm, the overconsumption of carbohydrates, and insufficient oral hygiene (Fig 1-1).

Thus, the prevention of caries aims to adjust and ensure a healthy balance of the oral microbiome, dietary intake, oral hygiene, and mineral supply to avoid a net loss in enamel

and dentin of healthy teeth. Caries therapy can only be successful in the long run if this is achieved when demineralization has already taken place. Therefore, caries prevention and its treatment employ the same concept and are nowadays combined as caries control, management, or care.

This is also reflected in the ORCA/IADR definition of caries care, management, or control comprising “actions taken to interfere with mineral loss at all stages of the caries disease, including non-operative and operative interventions/treatment. The terms caries care/management/control may be more appropriate than the term ‘caries prevention’ and because of the continuous de- and remineralization processes, caries control needs to be continued throughout the life course.”¹

In consequence, the terms of caries prevention and therapy merge, which is not really surprising



Figs 1-1a and b Caries is nowadays understood as an imbalance between de- and remineralizing factors resulting in a net loss of minerals (**a**). Thus, modern caries management modifies oral hygiene, diet, the biofilm, and the mineral equilibrium, keeping sound tooth surfaces healthy, inactivating existing caries lesions (**b**), and preventing recurrent demineralization around restorations.

as restorative care and accompanying efforts to reduce caries activity have been viewed as secondary and tertiary prevention for a long time. Taking this into account, ORCA/IADR state that caries prevention “traditionally meant inhibition of caries initiation, otherwise called primary prevention. Primary, together with secondary and tertiary prevention, comprising nonoperative and operative treatments, are now summarized under caries care, management, or control.”¹

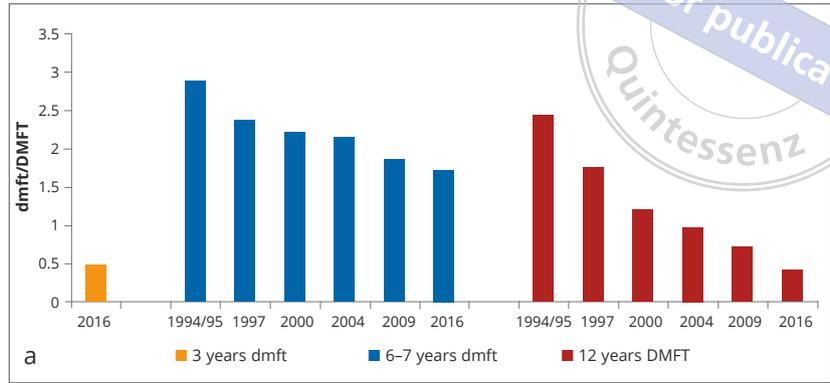
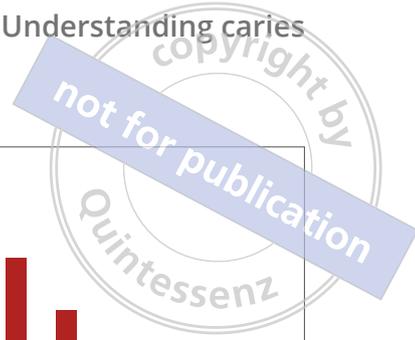
The following chapters regarding caries risk prediction, fluoride use, biofilm and diet control, and promoting oral health are based on this new understanding of caries. As in periodontal disease, the primary goal of all preventive and therapeutic approaches is to achieve a high quality of life by establishing a physiologic, regenerative balance to maintain proper oral health.

Caries epidemiology and its consequences

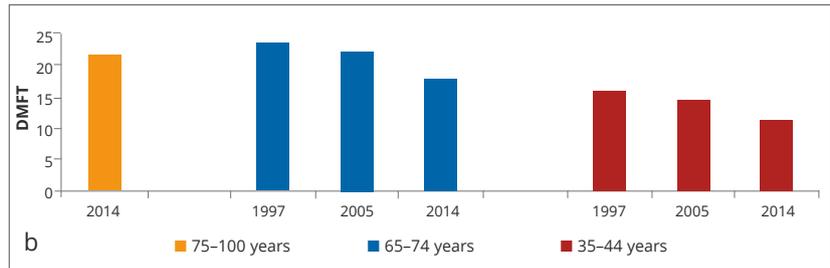
On a global level, a remarkable caries decline could be achieved for the permanent dentition in children and adolescents in many industrialized regions such as the US, Canada, Europe, or Oceania. Although Germany was not the first country to experience this, consecutive and recent national sur-

veys for all ages allow for a detailed analyses, which reveal trends^{2,3} that seem to be similar in many countries (Figs 1-2 and 1-3):

- Caries prevalence has reduced from ten or more affected permanent teeth in adolescents during the 1970s to a mean of less than one decayed, missing, or filled teeth (DMFT) in 12-year-olds nowadays.⁴
- About 90% of the caries burden can be prevented and tooth loss is almost eradicated in the permanent dentition in adolescents.^{2,4}
- After the caries decline, 80% of the adolescents are caries-free on a DMFT level and this is not much changed by lowering the threshold to initial caries lesions.³
- Thus, the caries distribution is polarized and a so-called high-risk group of about 20% exhibits almost the complete caries burden.^{2,4}
- The high-risk group is primarily associated with a low socioeconomic status that leads to less sufficient oral hygiene, fluoride exposure, and often more frequent sugar intake.^{2,5}
- In the primary dentition and especially for early childhood caries, the situation is far from satisfactory in many countries.⁶ In spite of a less pronounced caries decline in the primary dentition, caries patterns and distribution are equivalent to the situation in adolescents.⁷



Figs 1-2a and b Decayed, missing, and filled teeth (dmft/DMFT) in Germany in (a) schoolchildren,^{3,7} adolescents,^{3,4} and (b) adults. In many industrialized countries such as Germany, a remarkable caries decline has been recorded for the permanent dentition in adolescents, as well as in adults, and to a lesser extent for the primary dentition in schoolchildren.



Figs 1-3a to d A large percentage of children are caries-free (80%) (a and b), while a small group of children (20%) (c and d) present with high caries rates (80%). The polarization of the caries distribution especially in children leads to two different preventive approaches: Maintaining the high degree of oral health in the majority group of the population and intensifying measures for the high caries risk group.

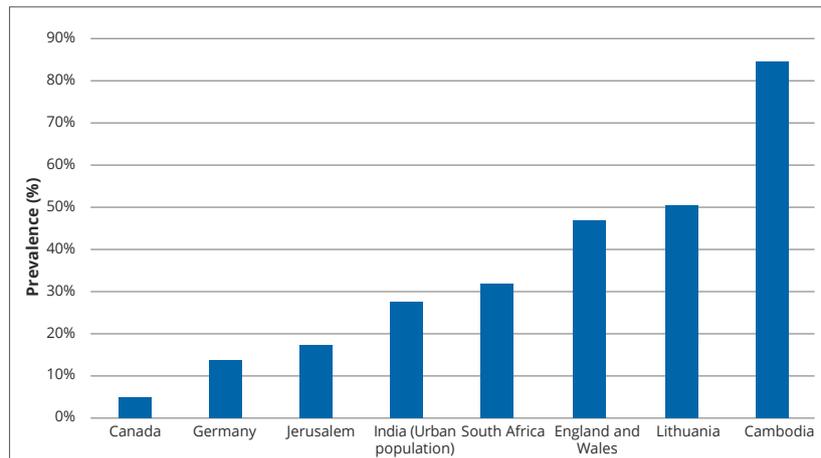


Fig 1-4 Global epidemiology of early childhood caries (ECC). ECC or caries in the primary dentition seem to be a persistent problem, with severe consequences for the affected children. Preventive approaches in almost all countries have to be intensified to mirror the success often achieved in the permanent dentition.^{3,10-16}

This is also true for caries in adults.² Most likely a further caries decline will also increase the polarization in adults.

- Due to the caries distribution after a major caries decline, primary caries prevention needs a dual strategy of maintaining the high levels of oral health in the majority of the population and trying to find intensified measures to improve the situation in the risk group mostly characterized by a low socioeconomic status.³
- There is a realistic perspective that caries levels even in risk groups can be significantly reduced in the future, as the caries decline in this group was proportional to the reductions in the whole population, at least in German adolescents.⁴

In contrast to the general caries decline in many industrialized countries, caries levels in the emerging market economies are still at a high level for most of the population, or even on the rise due to increased wealth and sugar consumption.⁸ This imposes a great challenge to these countries; in spite of choosing the restorative approach as was done by many Western countries, strengthening primary prevention would be a better choice.

The current epidemiologic situation of a polarized caries distribution calls for two distinctly different approaches to primary car-

ies prevention: For the majority of the population, individual and professional prevention can reduce 90% of the caries burden and keep it at a tolerable very low level.

The so-called caries risk group that accumulates about 80% of the caries defects and the according treatment needs is characterized by a low socioeconomic status. It seems that outreach programs and tailored health regulations are necessary to achieve further health gains in the groups with often low self-efficacy or (oral) health literacy. A common risk factor approach and cooperation with other professionals are useful for risk group targeted prevention to strengthen health and probably also educational competencies in these individuals and their families.

Early childhood caries

Early childhood caries (ECC) appears to be a persistent and neglected topic with rather high levels in many countries (Fig 1-4), low treatment rates, and, therefore, severe consequences in many small children that clearly affects their well-being and quality of life.⁹

Only in recent years has research in caries epidemiology focused on early childhood, followed

Table 1-1 Mean caries prevalence data (dmft) for all kindergarten children in Greifswald, Germany, 2019, as well as mean values and care index for the subgroup of children with/without caries, fillings, and/or missing teeth due to caries (dmft = 0 and > 0, n ~ 1,500)¹⁷

Parameter	Age (years)				
	1 y	2 y	3 y	4 y	5 y
Mean dmft for all children	0.05	0.30	0.50	1.06	1.56
Proportion of children with dmft = 0	99%	95%	87%	76%	65%
Proportion of children with dmft > 0	1%	5%	13%	24%	35%
Mean dmft children with dmft > 0 (SaC)	4.50	5.5	3.88	4.49	4.43
Care index (mft/dmft) in %	0%	8%	17%	44%	69%

SaC, Specific affected Caries Index.

by representative surveys on the prevalence of ECC. Thus, ECC deserves special attention in order to draw conclusions that might deviate from the situation in the permanent dentition.

ORCA and IADR define ECC as “the early onset of caries in young children with often fast progression which can finally result in complete destruction of the primary dentition [Fig 1-1a]. An epidemiologic definition of ECC is the presence of one or more decayed (noncavitated or cavitated lesions), missing (due to caries), or filled surfaces, in any primary tooth of a child under [the] age of six.” They also state that the appearance of ECC deviates from the common caries distribution where pits, fissures, and proximal surface dominate.¹

“Due to the frequent consumption of carbohydrates, especially sugars, and inadequate to absent oral hygiene in small children, ECC demonstrates an atypical pattern of caries attack, particularly on smooth surfaces of upper anterior teeth.”¹ This implies that typical ECC is a type of child neglect, as even minimal and easy preventive oral health measures are omitted for a considerable time. It is amazing that this can be found in so many children in developed and emerging countries.⁶ It also calls for clearly intensified primary caries-preventive measures from the first tooth on.

The National German Oral Health Survey in Children and Adolescents revealed 14% of 3-year-olds had caries on a dmft level in Germany,³ which is at the lower end of an international comparison. The mean value in the affected children (the newly introduced Specific affected Caries Index [SaC]¹⁷) was 3.6 dmft, making pulpal involvement, subsequent toothache, and probably a treatment under general anesthesia (GA) due to the high number of carious teeth as well as the low compliance in these small children likely – or a painful, and potentially traumatic experience when extraction in uncooperative children is performed if GA is not available.³

A closer look reveals that in spite of a very low mean caries prevalence of 0.3 dmft in 2-year-olds, a small risk group of children develops “real” ECC from the first tooth onwards (Table 1-1). Here ECC is caused by infant feeding that provides a high sugar content and/or erosive drinks in combination with insufficient or a complete lack of oral hygiene.¹⁸ Regarding the “epidemiologic” definition of ECC, in Germany the prevalence increases to almost 35% at a defect level until school age.^{3,7} The care index of less than 50% is not satisfactory, and clearly lower than in the permanent dentition.³ The young age of the children and the high burden of the disease in many countries make a primary preventive approach to manage the problem of ECC (see Chapters 5 and 9) more logical

than the secondary or tertiary prevention (see Chapters 12 to 14) via, for example, restorations or even extractions.

Caries diagnostics

Analogous to the above-mentioned definition of caries as a net loss of minerals, caries diagnostics would assess the change of minerals over time. As caries is a process, this implies that a one-time diagnosis requires a continuous sampling technique or is even per se impossible.

The ORCA/IADR consensus solves this problem by stating that “caries diagnosis is the clinical judgment integrating available information, including the detection and assessment of caries signs (lesions), to determine presence of the disease.”¹ This is especially crucial for secondary or tertiary prevention, with the signs or symptoms of caries already being clearly present in an individual. “The main purpose of clinical caries diagnosis is to achieve the best health outcome for the patient by selecting the best management option for each lesion type, to inform the patient, and to monitor the clinical course of the disease.”¹ This is relevant to all levels of prevention, as many teeth and surfaces within one individual often present different stages of the caries process.

It is important to comprehend that the diagnosis of caries as a process or caries activity differs from the diagnosis of past mineral loss or even cavitation, which was traditionally defined as “caries diagnostics.” According to ORCA/IADR, caries activity “is a concept that reflects the mineral balance, in terms of net mineral loss, net mineral gain, or stasis over time.”¹ Caries active implies caries initiation or progression; caries inactive implies caries arrest or regression.¹⁹ The diagnosis of caries activity can actually be used as the gold standard for the success of preventive measures because they should reduce the net

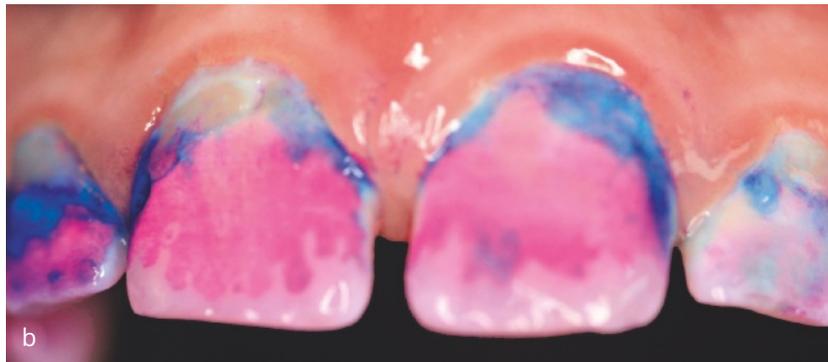
mineral loss to zero or even remineralize existing lesions. The detection of cavitation due to caries is a comparatively crude diagnostic approach.

Clinical examination

A regular, visual-tactile examination of the mouth and teeth is part of the standard routine in dentistry. However, active initial caries lesions, which are the crucial part of the diagnosis, can only be assessed clinically after removal of the dental plaque and drying of the teeth using sufficient lighting. It is important that no force is applied with a pointed probe during the examination of initial lesions, as this can destroy the intact surface and, therefore, reduce the chance of defect-free remineralization.²⁰

The International Caries Detection and Assessment System²¹ offers a detailed diagnosis of the various caries stages from 0 (healthy) to 6 (deep caries). In daily practice, however, it is usually sufficient in the diagnosis of caries to distinguish between healthy surfaces, initial lesions, moderate stage lesions, and cavitated lesions, as well as their degree of activity.²¹⁻²³

The clinical caries and activity diagnosis allows a fairly precise therapy decision and selection of the right level of care involving primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention. This makes the traditional concept of caries treatment obsolete. A merely restorative approach to caries would fail, as was often the case, due to the persisting net loss of minerals, leading to “secondary” caries, which is actually the nontreated caries activity that had originally led to the first cavitation.

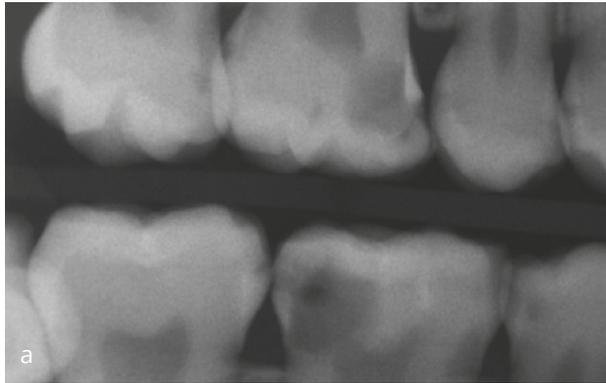


Figs 1-5a to c Maxillary anterior teeth: **(a)** before plaque removal, **(b)** after staining, and **(c)** after brushing. Active caries lesions can only be diagnosed on cleaned tooth surfaces, and gingivitis becomes clearer for the patient as a result of bleeding during cleaning.

Caries activity

The degree of caries activity is superior to the assessment of the caries risk (see Chapter 17). While risk refers to the conversion of a healthy state to disease, the diagnosis of caries activity actually uses the knowledge of the disease process to record its early signs, whether heavy plaque in stagnation areas, accompanying gingivitis, or initial caries lesion. These should be carefully viewed after cleaning and drying the teeth (Fig 1-5) and differentiated into a probably active or inactive initial lesion.

It is important to note that inactivation is possible at any stage from initial enamel lesion to deep dentinal caries (see Fig 1b),^{21,23} and it can be achieved by disturbing the dental biofilm (eg, by brushing teeth) and by influencing the de- and remineralization processes (eg, with fluorides). In spite of being classically primary preventive measures, they are “therapeutic” here and can be perceived as nonoperative caries treatment or management, which should result in a net gain of minerals.



Figs 1-6a and b Bitewing radiographs (a) allow a staging of proximal lesions and planning of primary preventive measures (flossing and fluorides, see Chapter 7), secondary prevention such as nonoperative treatment of initial lesions with cleaning and fluorides, proximal sealing or infiltration, and tertiary prevention meaning restorative care. This can be supported by fiber-optic transillumination (FOTI) (b), digital imaging fiber-optic transillumination (DIFOTI), or quantitative light-induced fluorescence (QLF).

Further diagnostics

If proximal caries is present or going to be expected, a radiographic examination should be considered since proximal caries rarely occurs in an isolated spot and pulpal involvement can be assessed (Fig 1-6). Bitewing radiographs are still considered to be the gold standard in proximal caries diagnostics.²⁴

Another method to monitor proximal surfaces is fiber-optic transillumination (FOTI), which is particularly suitable for the first examination of “apparently healthy” proximal surfaces,²⁵ especially if a proximal lesion has already been detected on another tooth. In addition, several new caries diag-

nostic systems such as digital imaging fiber-optic transillumination (DIFOTI) and quantitative light-induced fluorescence (QLF) have been available on the market for several years with the aim of providing reliable results in caries diagnosis. Still, reviews stress that they can be used as adjunct tools, but they should not substitute x-rays completely, and do not overrule the clinical verification.²⁶

Current concepts and treatment approaches in caries management

Primary caries prevention is traditionally considered as the “real” prevention, aiming to maintain the health of sound teeth that are at risk for caries. The concepts of the classical preventive measures are based on a variety of approaches. In several chapters, this book looks at their current evidence base and provides clinical recommendations on how to implement these nowadays, eg for fluorides (see Chapter 3), plaque removal via tooth brushing or flossing (see Chapters 6 and 7), diet control (see Chapter 4), or probiotics (see Chapter 11).

A key issue of primary caries prevention is a change from caries activity to inactivation or, in other words, from predominantly demineralization to remineralization of dental hard tissues, which involves behavior change in the patients or caretaker (see Chapter 9). Especially after the caries decline, oral diseases are concentrated on a minority group, linked to the socioeconomic status.²⁷ Thus, future gains in oral health must have a focus on this group, possibly employing all levels from individualized, group- and population-based prevention, outreach programs, and a common risk factor approach (see Chapter 5).

Secondary caries prevention aims to arrest or even remineralize initial caries lesions with nonoperative or minimally invasive techniques. These



Figs 1-7a and b Minimally invasive treatment of approximal initial caries lesions by (a) therapeutic sealants and (b) caries infiltration with Icon (DMG Dental).

techniques involve nonrestorative caries control, which implements primary caries-preventive measures but employs them for initial or even cavitated caries lesions (see Chapter 14). This can be enhanced with silver fluoride products or other fluorides (see Chapters 3 and 12), antimicrobials, or biomimetic remineralization using self-assembling peptides (Curodont Repair, Credentis),²⁸ that work like a magnet for attracting minerals (see Chapter 13).

For management of initial caries lesions with intact macroscopic enamel surfaces, plaque control and fluoridation play a central role in arresting the lesions, promoting remineralization, and consequently avoiding further lesion progression to visible cavitation. It is known that tooth brushing with fluoridated toothpaste is the most cost-effective strategy for controlling caries lesions.^{29,30}

In addition, individualized preventive strategies that take into consideration patient's caries risk/activity as well as involve parents and other care takers are key factors for successful intervention in caries control. One of the most effective caries prevention strategies is the "Next model."^{31,32} These techniques are especially needed in patients

with reduced cooperation, such as small children, persons with handicap, chronically ill patients, or elderly patients (see Chapter 16).

As minimally invasive techniques, therapeutic sealants can be used (see Chapter 10), even on proximal surfaces (Fig 1-7a).³³ Another option is caries infiltration (Icon, DMG Dental; Fig 1-7b), where a resin-like material is diffused in the porous initial caries lesion.³⁴

"Tertiary" caries prevention tries to prevent progression of the disease and subsequent complication. Traditionally, complete removal of carious tissue with subsequent restorative treatment was regarded as the standard treatment for carious teeth. In recent years, there has been a paradigm shift in caries understanding: Caries is no longer understood as an infectious disease, but as the result of an ecologic imbalance, which is triggered, for instance, by the frequent consumption of fermentable carbohydrates (see above). In the biofilm, among other things, carbohydrates are metabolized to acids, which cause demineralization of the tooth structure. Not only in the field of primary caries prevention is this of fundamental importance, but also for the treatment of cavitated caries lesions, dentin demineralization, and (amount of) removal of carious tissues. For instance certain techniques encourage inactivation

of caries lesions without carious tissue removal, such as nonrestorative cavity control,^{35,36} presented in Chapter 14. Here, also the silver agents³⁷ (see Chapter 12) or sealing techniques with no carious tissue removal using preformed metal crowns like the Hall Technique³⁵ are part of the modern caries management spectrum.

Thus, it is possible to control or arrest caries by disturbing the biofilm and influencing the de- and remineralization processes at any time and stage during lesion development.^{38,39} For cavitated caries lesions, biologically based techniques such as the selective (to firm, to leathery, to soft dentin) or step-wise carious tissue removal are currently advocated. These techniques are recommended for the management of shallow, moderately deep, and deep lesions in vital teeth in order to prevent pulpal exposure and to preserve the pulp vitality of the carious tooth.⁴⁰

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Prevention is better than healing ... or treatment. Thus, preventive dentistry is a cross-sectional challenge for all fields in dentistry, and one that has already achieved great success, as shown by the caries decline in many countries. The walls between prevention and treatment have recently fallen in caries and periodontal disease, as well as in orthodontics, where guidance of function and space maintenance are a combination of prevention and treatment.

This book discusses new developments and innovations in preventive dentistry, from primary "real" prevention to secondary prevention by inactivating initial lesions, and on to tertiary prevention to avoid subsequent progression and complications of manifest oral disease. This evidence base is then translated into clinical dental practice.

The book addresses everyone interested or involved in dentistry, including students, the whole dental practice team, educators, health scientists, and policy makers, who want to gain insight into these up-to-date clinical practices and future developments. It intends to make an impact on teaching and all fields of clinical dentistry – not by giving cookbook recipes, but by pointing out the rationale behind the changes in our routines.

Presented by an international group of recognized specialists in their fields, the topics include the new understanding and management of caries and periodontal disease, prevention of orthodontic problems, diagnostic approaches, the role of diet and according recommendations for oral health, routes to better oral hygiene, changes in oral disease patterns and their consequences, non- and minimally invasive caries treatment, current fluoride guidelines including the use of silver fluorides, risk management, a common risk-factor approach, facilitating behavior changes, sealants, and probiotics. This broad spectrum is elucidated for the most relevant dental problems from early childhood to seniors to implement preventively oriented dental practice.

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