



Teeth and toothache

1. Arrangement and form. Teeth are present in most **mammals** and nearly all have two sets: a temporary or milk set followed by a permanent or adult set. In some animals, all the teeth are similar, but in man, there are four different **shapes**: incisors, canines (eye teeth), premolars (bicuspid) and molars. They are arranged together in an arch in each **jaw** and the **cusps** of opposing teeth interdigitate. In man the quadrants are the same: in children, two incisors, one canine and two molars (total teeth 20), in adults, two incisors, one canine, two premolars and three molars (total 32).
2. **Teething** or the process of eruption of the teeth in infants may be accompanied by irritability, salivation, loss of sleep and a **failure to feed**. The child will tend to rub or touch the painful area. The pain may be relieved by allowing **the enamel** the child **to chew** on a hard object such as a toy or hard biscuit. Mild analgesics may be given if the child is **restless** and wakes up at night.
3. Toothache is the pain felt when there is inflammation of the pulp or periodontal membrane of the tooth. It can vary in intensity and may be **recurring**. The commonest cause is **caries** when the cavity is close to **the pulp**. Once the pulp has become infected, this likely **spread** from the apex of the tooth into the bone to form a **gumboil**. A lesser, but more long-lasting pain is felt that when the dentine is unprotected. This can occur when is lost due to decay or trauma or because the gums have receded. This pain is often associated with temperature change or sweet foods. Patients should seek expert dental **advice** early on before the decay is extensive. If a large cavity is accessible, temporary relief can be obtained by inserting a small piece of **cotton wool soaked** for example, in oil cloves.

WORDS	DEFINITIONS
Teeth	The hard structure in the mouth used for mastication.
Toothache	Pain in one or more teeth
Mammals	Animals who feed their young with milk
Shape	Form
Jaw	One of the two bony structures, In which the teeth are set, forming the framework of the mouth.
Cusp	A colonial elevation arising on the surface of a tooth. (see page3 Lecture2)
Teething	A process of eruption of the primary teeth beginning around the sixth month of life
Failure to feed	Inability or difficulty to consume food
Rub	To apply friction over a surface
Chew	To masticate, to use the teeth to break up food in the mouth so that it becomes easier to digest
Restless	Agitated, unable to stay still
Pulp	The soft tissue within the tooth containing blood vessels, nerves and lymphatic vessels
Recurring	Repetitive
Caries	Deterioration of tooth substance due to bacterial infection
Cavity	A hole in a tooth caused by decay
Spread	To cover a larger or an increasing area
Gumboil	A localised collection of pus in the gum associated with swelling and inflammation
Long-lasting	That continuous for a long time
Dentine	Ivory, the hard tissue forming the major part of a tooth
Enamel	The hard layer covering the crown of a tooth
Recede	To retract, to move away from a previous position
Sweet	Containing sugar
Advice	Expert opinion, recommendation
Cotton wool	An absorbent cotton-based material used for cleaning wounds
Soak	To saturate something with a liquid

➤ **Reading comprehension**

- 1- What are the differences between a child's teeth and an adult's?
- 2- How can parents ease the pain induced by teething?
- 3- What can parents do if the child is unable to sleep?
- 4- Can you define toothache?

➤ **Translate the following sentences**

Ce nourrisson est particulièrement agité, il se réveille plusieurs fois par nuit car il perce ses dents.

Une carie peut provoquer un abcès gingival si elle n'est pas traitée.

Il est important de se brosser les dents régulièrement afin d'éviter que la plaque dentaire ne se développe.

Réf/ <http://www.webmd.com/oral-health/default.htm>

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