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First Year Dentistry

Chapter II

Understanding Teeth, Teething, and Toothache

Part 1: Tooth Structure and Types

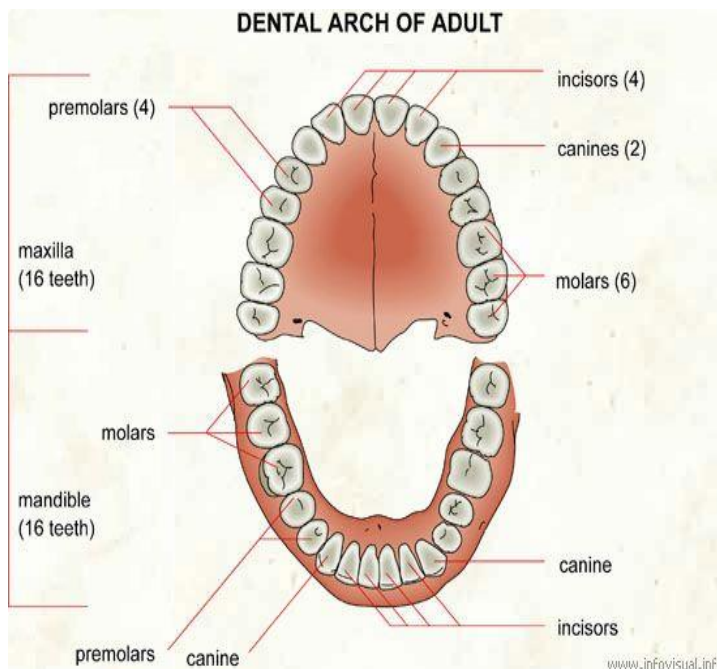
This section explains the different types of teeth in humans and their arrangement. It covers the distinction between temporary (milk) teeth and permanent (adult) teeth, as well as the four main tooth shapes: incisors, canines, premolars, and molars. The arrangement of these teeth in the jaw, along with differences in children's and adults' teeth, is also highlighted.

Part 2: The Process of Teething

Here, you can describe the eruption of primary teeth, which begins around the sixth month of life. This process often leads to discomfort and irritability in infants. The section will explain how symptoms like salivation, loss of sleep, and difficulty feeding can occur, and ways to relieve the pain, such as chewing on a toy or giving mild analgesics.

Part 3: Understanding Toothache

This part covers the causes and symptoms of toothache, which usually arise due to inflammation of the tooth pulp or periodontal membrane. It highlights common causes like tooth decay (caries) and how it can lead to more severe pain, including gumboils. The section provides recommendations on when to seek dental advice and suggests temporary relief options, such as cotton wool soaked in oil of cloves.



Text 1:

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.

Teething/_process of eruption of the primary teeth beginning around the Sixth month of life.

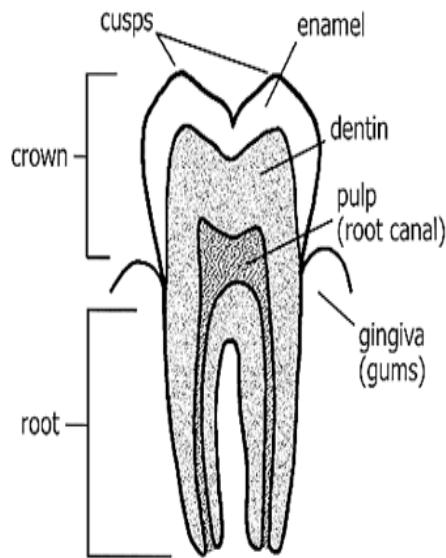
Failure to feed /inability or difficulty to consume food

Key concepts for Discussion

- **Teething in Infants:** A difficult yet necessary process for development, involving discomfort that may cause irritability, feeding issues, and sleep disturbances.
- **Toothache in Adults:** Often caused by tooth decay, affecting the tooth pulp or surrounding tissues, and requiring prompt dental care.
- **Preventive Care:** The importance of early dental visits to avoid complications like cavities or infections.

Part 4: Definitions for key terms from the lecture

Teeth (sg. tooth): The hard white structures 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. **Jaw:** one of the two bony structures, in which the teeth are set, forming the framework of the mouth:

- ✓ The upper jaw/the maxilla (la mâchoire supérieure/ le maxillaire)
- ✓ The lower jaw/the mandible (la mâchoire inférieure/ la mandibule)

Cusp: a conical elevation arising on the surface of the tooth

Teething: the 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 swallow and digest

Restless: agitated, unable to stay still

Pulp: the soft tissue within the tooth containing blood vessels, nerves, and lymphatic vessels

Recurring: repetitive

Caries = tooth decay: deterioration of tooth substance due to bacterial infection

Cavity: a hole in a tooth caused by decay

Spread: to cover a larger or increasing an area

Gumboil = an abscess: a localised collection of pus in the gum associated with swelling and inflammation

Long-lasting: that continues for a long time

Dentine: ivory, the hard tissue forming the major part of a tooth

Recede: to react, 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 liquid

Interactive Section Reading comprehension

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

➤ Translate the following sentence

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