Disclaimer

This movie is an educational resource only and should not be used to manage your health. All decisions about the management of ‘Teething Problems must be made in conjunction with your Dental Surgeon or a licensed healthcare provider.

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INTRODUCTION

The deciduous teeth are twenty in number, ten in each jaw. They are also referred to as ‘baby teeth’, ‘milk teeth’ and ‘primary teeth’.

Usually, babies are born with no visible teeth in their mouth. The first baby tooth appears through the gums at about the age of 6-9 months of age. The two lower front teeth, central incisors, come first followed by the two upper front teeth, then the lower and upper lateral incisors, lower molars, upper molars, lower canines, upper canines, lower second molars and finally upper second molars erupt.
Introduction

The emergence of the first tooth in your child’s mouth is a great milestone in your child’s life, but is accompanied with a lot of pain and discomfort.

In order to learn more about teething problems it is necessary to understand the normal anatomy of the deciduous teeth.

(Refer fig. 1 to 8)

(Fig. 1)

(Fig. 2)

(Fig. 3)
Unit 1: Normal Anatomy of Deciduous Teeth

(Refer fig. 1 to 8)

(Continued in next page)
Normal Tooth Anatomy

The teeth consist of two main parts, the crown and the root.

Crown: The visible part of the tooth projecting above the gums is the crown.

The crown has three layers:

- Enamel
- Dentin
- Pulp

(Continued in next page)
Enamel
It is the hardest outermost part of teeth. It is white in color and is made of calcium hydroxyapatite. The enamel layer is thinner in deciduous teeth, about 1mm.

(Refer fig. 12)

Dentin
It lies below both the enamel and cementum layer of tooth and is softer than enamel which makes it more susceptible to decay. It is yellowish in color.

(Refer fig. 13)

Pulp
It is present at the center of the tooth and is commonly referred to as the ‘nerve’ of the tooth. It is the softer, living inner structure of teeth and is made up of blood vessels and nerves. The pulp chamber is larger in deciduous teeth (baby teeth).

(Refer fig. 14)

Root: The deciduous teeth have longer and more flared roots. It is that part of the tooth that is embedded inside the jawbone. This portion is made up of dentin overlying which a mineralized layer is called cementum.

(Continued in next page)
Cementum contains very small fibers called periodontal ligament fibers which help in anchoring the teeth to the bone. Inside the roots there are small canals through which the main blood vessels and nerves pass to the pulp chamber. These are referred to as root canals.

(Refer fig. 15)
What is Teething?

Teething refers to the normal process of eruption of teeth through the gums in infants and young children. The process begins at 6 months of age and continues up to 30 months when all 20 teeth have erupted.

As the teeth penetrate through the gum, that area appears red and swollen. The baby becomes irritable and tries to place fingers or any other hard object into the mouth to bite on it attempting to relieve the pain. This condition is referred to as Teething Problems.

Causes

Children with the following conditions are found to have teething problems:

- Bottle fed babies
- Vitamin and calcium deficiency
- Weaker gastrointestinal system

Signs and Symptoms

The following signs and symptoms may be present in a baby who is teething:

- A soft bump may be felt under the child’s gum
- Increased drooling of saliva

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Unit 2: Overview of Teething Problems

Pain and discomfort
Swelling and soreness in the gums
Irritability
Poor appetite

(Fig. 17)

Baby starts putting his fingers or any hard objects in the mouth
Sleeping problems
Mild rash around the mouth due to drooling of saliva
Mild fever
Diagnosis

The diagnosis of teething problems is made based upon the presence of signs and symptoms. Swollen gums combined with irritability in children are the two main symptoms that suggest teething pain.

Treatment

Gently rub the gums with a clean finger or offer the child a clean washcloth to bite down on.

Offer your baby teething rings to chew on.

If pain is causing feeding problems, use a cup or a different shaped nipple.

Give your baby something healthy to chew like raw carrots or apples. This will ease their discomfort.

Your dentist will advise you of oral medicines to help relieve pain as well as topical anesthetic gels to numb the gums.
Disclaimer

Although every effort is made to educate you on Teething Problems and take control, there will be specific information that will not be discussed. Talk to your dentist or periodontist about any concerns you have about Teething Problems.
YOUR SURGERY DATE

READ YOUR BOOK AND MATERIAL

VIEW YOUR VIDEO/CD/DVD/ WEBSITE

PRE - HABILITATION

ARRANGE FOR BLOOD

MEDICAL CHECK UP

ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

PRE - ADMISSION TESTING

FAMILY SUPPORT REVIEW

Physician's Name:  
Physician's Signature:  
Date:  

Patient’s Name:  
Patient’s Signature:  
Date:  

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