

Tooth Talk

Hey Doc, can you put something on my kid's teeth to prevent cavity?"

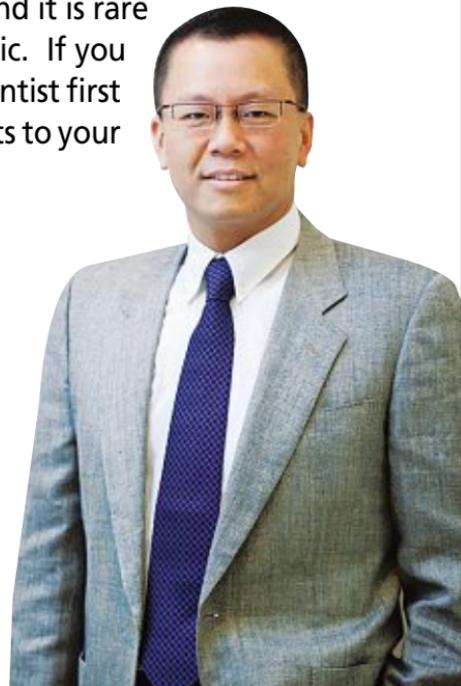
Even with good brushing and flossing, some children can still be prone to getting cavities on their teeth. The primary reason is that their teeth have deep grooves and pits which allow food and plaque to hide in them, thereby providing the nutrients for the bacteria in the mouth to start the cavity formation process

Fortunately, dental sealants are available to help protect children's teeth by sealing them off from the decay-causing bacteria.

Dental sealants are made of plastic and they are applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to protect them from the cavity-causing bacteria. Dental sealants flow into the grooves and pits of your children's teeth, protecting them from decay. The risk of dental decay goes down tremendously after the application of dental sealants, as long as the sealants remain intact.

Over time, the sealants can get worn away through normal chewing and grinding and may need to be reapplied in order to offer continual protection to your children's teeth. Tooth decay can start early in life, so children should receive dental sealants on their permanent molars as soon as they come in, usually around the age of 6.

Dental sealants can be applied to baby teeth also if they need the added protection towards dental decay. Sometimes, adults choose to have dental sealants, especially if they have a history of being prone to getting cavities. Dental sealants are very safe and it is rare to have an allergic reaction to the plastic. If you are concern, please consult with your dentist first prior to the application of dental sealants to your or your children's teeth.



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