



# Dental Decay is Preventable

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# Twelve-Year-Old Deamonte Driver died of a toothache on Feb/07

Jan. 11 Deamonte came home from school complaining of a headache.

- Next day he was much sicker and was rushed to hospital.
- He underwent emergency brain surgery and finally the problem tooth was extracted.
- He began to have seizures and required a second operation.
- He endured 2 weeks of hospitalization and 6 weeks of rehabilitation.
- Feb. 24, he refused to eat, but otherwise appeared happy.
- Feb. 25, he was unresponsive and DIED of Brain Infection caused by an abscessed tooth.

# Why are we here?

- You're signing up families for health insurance
- All plans offer dental coverage
- Families don't know this
- Your job - let families know:
  - Their kids have coverage
  - Explain why it's important for them to use it.



# Tooth Decay – Dental Caries



http://www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/facts/index.asp#figure1  
Entrez-PubMed Live Home Page Apple Apple Support Apple Store IT

Figure 1: Dental Decay



Mild Dental Decay



Mode



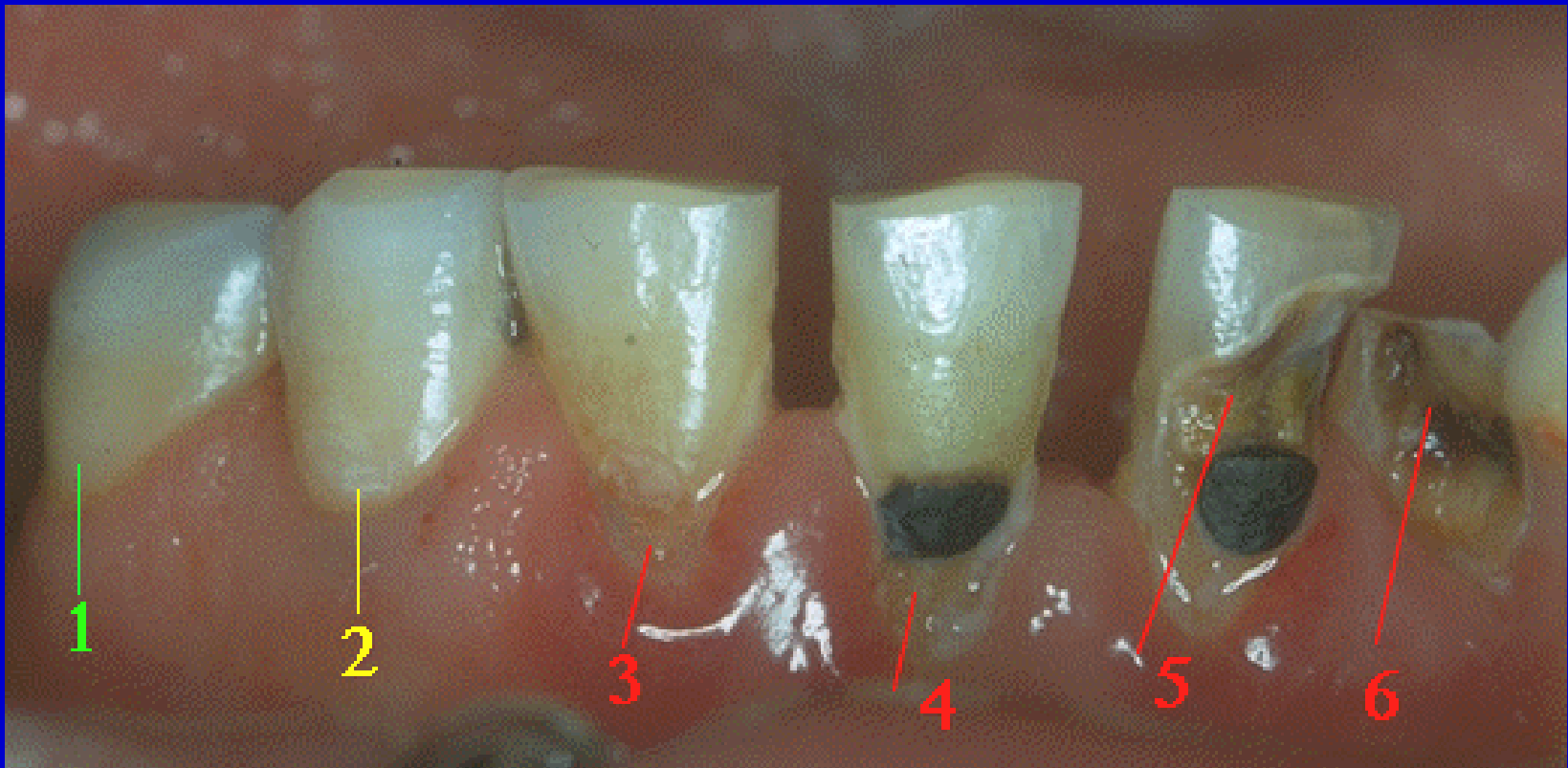
Seve

Lack of flossing  
Adult Decay – Root  
Caries  
Early Childhood Caries  
Removal of Decay



First Smiles:  
Dental Health Begins at Birth

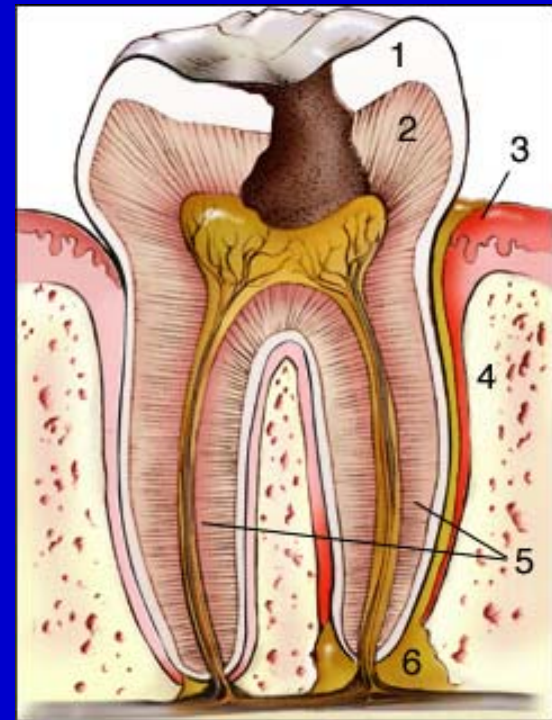
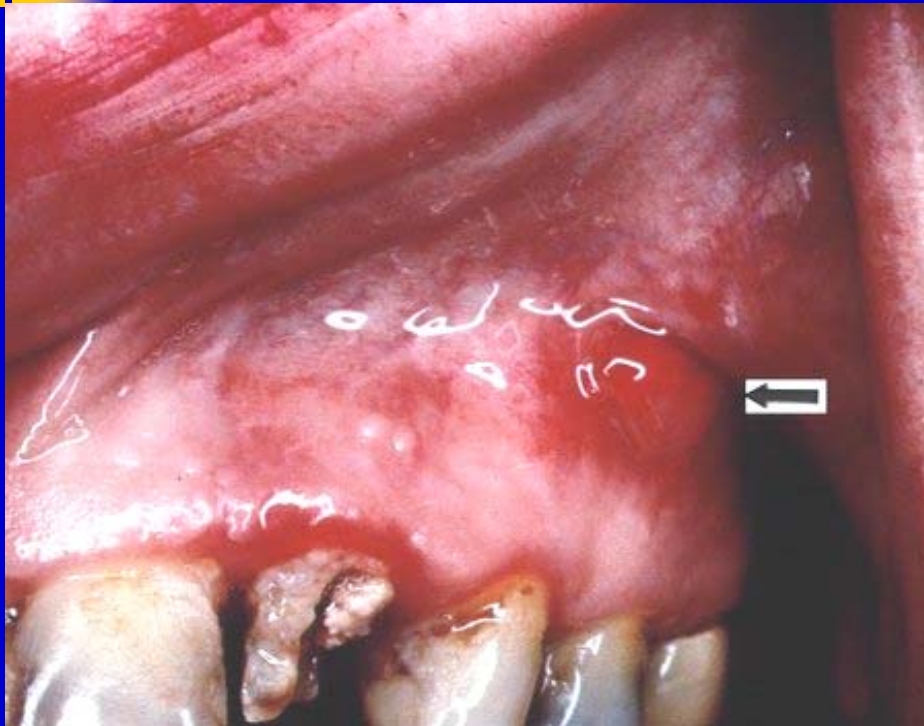
# Dental Caries Progression



First Smiles:  
Dental Health Begins at Birth

# Oral Conditions

## Rampant Decay/Abscess/Infection



First Smiles:  
Dental Health Begins at Birth

# Early Childhood Caries (ECC)

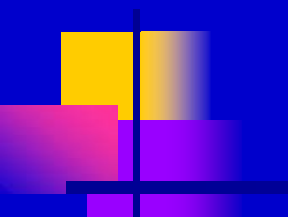


## Baby Bottle Tooth Decay

Nursing Bottle Caries

Rampant Caries

# Early Childhood Caries (ECC)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that ECC is perhaps the most prevalent infectious disease of our nation's children

# What is ECC?

- Any tooth decay, including extractions and fillings from previous decay, in the primary dentition.



# Severe ECC

- Distinctive pattern of tooth decay that begins on upper primary teeth
- Rapidly progresses to other teeth as they erupt



# Tooth Decay versus ECC



First Smiles:  
Dental Health Begins at Birth

# More about ECC

- Most prevalent chronic disease of childhood
- 5 times more prevalent than asthma
- 7 times more prevalent than hay fever





# Is it a problem in California?

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- Yes!

# ECC in California

- California's children fall well below the nation in oral health
- 54% of Kindergartners have had at least 1 cavity
- 75 % of children by third grade have experienced tooth decay.



# Who gets ECC?

- ECC can happen in any family!





# Costs of ECC

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- \$2,000-\$5,000 for treatment
- More if hospitalized



# The effects of ECC

- Pain
- Infection
- Self-esteem



# Pain

- Children learn to live with the pain
- Missed preschool and school days
- Inability to concentrate; impairs school readiness
- Can affect sleep and overall health and well-being



# Infection

- Failure to thrive and delayed growth patterns



# The Results of Neglected Oral Health

- Nutrition Problems
- Sleep deprivation
- Attention Deficit
- Missed School Days
- Slower Social Development



# Primary teeth are important!

- Eating and nutrition
- Holding Space
- Talking



# Can ECC be Prevented? Yes!

- Interventions with pregnant women, caregivers and mothers of infants
- Interventions with babies and young children



# Visit the Dentist During Pregnancy

- Encourage mom to visit the dentist during pregnancy and to take care of her own oral health
- Dentist can determine if mom should use antibacterial rinse while pregnant





# Medi-Cal

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- Comprehensive dental coverage for children
- No lower age limit
- No prior authorization needed for most procedures
- Many families don't know they're covered
- Covers fluoride varnish by both medical and dental providers



# Healthy Families/Healthy Kids

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- Comprehensive dental coverage for children
- No lower age limit – covers through 18
- Some families don't know they're covered



# Bottom Line

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- Be sure parents know about the plans that include dental coverage
- Stress the importance of taking the child to the dentist **by age one** if possible
- Stress the importance of paying attention to the child's/their own oral health at home