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PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

INFORMATION ABOUT SEALANTS

What is the purpose of sealants?

Pit and fissure cavities account for approximately 80-90% of all cavities in permanent posterior teeth and 44% in primary teeth. Sealants reduce the risk of cavities in those susceptible pits and fissures.

At what age are sealants recommended?

Teeth that are typically good candidates for sealants are the six year permanent and twelve year permanent molars as these teeth tend to be more cavity prone. Other teeth the doctor considers to be more susceptible to cavities may benefit from sealants as well.

How are sealants applied?

They are simple to place and no anesthetic is required. The sealant is gently placed on the tooth with special instruments and sets almost immediately. You can eat and drink immediately after the sealants are placed.

Are the teeth fully protected against decay?

Sealants offer an additional preventive measure against cavities on teeth upon which they're placed, however, cavities may still occur due to changes in patient habits, oral bacteria, or change in the physical condition or loss in adherence of the sealant. Therefore, they do not guarantee the prevention of cavities on these teeth.

However an additional benefit of sealants is that they may delay the development of a cavity for several years until an age at which the patient is able to either brush more effectively or tolerate a filling procedure.

How long do sealants last?

A sealant may be lost from a tooth as a result of normal chewing function. At this point in time, the tooth may either be resealed or a small filling may be needed to replace the sealant if the doctor determines that a sealant is not a durable enough or suitable replacement.

They will wear down over time much like the sole of a shoe with function, and typically last around five years, however can last up to ten years and even longer.

If they wear off, they can be replaced; however there may be a charge if replaced after several years.

Is the sealant material safe?

The material: Dental sealants are a plastic resin, very similar to tooth colored filling material. Our sealant material does not contain BPA, a product found in plastic bottles and plastic tableware.

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