

Baby bottle tooth decay

Alternative names:

bottle mouth; bottle carries; baby bottle syndrome; or
baby bottle tooth decay

Information:

Definition:

Baby bottle tooth decay is a dental condition characterized by massive decay of the infants teeth, particularly the upper and lower incisors.

Causes:

Baby bottle tooth decay is caused by frequent and prolonged exposure to liquids containing sugars. The worst offenders are juices, punches, soft drinks, gelatin, sugar water or other sweetened liquids. Milk and formula can also contribute to decay.

Bacteria on the teeth uses these sugars as an energy source to form acids which attack tooth enamel. An almost continuous supply of sugar (meaning an infant with a bottle of juice in his mouth most of the day) means that decay takes place on a continuous basis rather than just at the times of feeding.