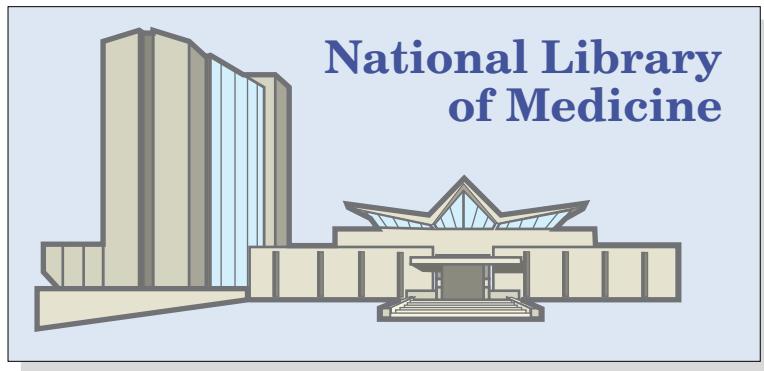


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# **Diagnosis and Management of Dental Caries**

January 1980 through December 2000

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## INTRODUCTION

Although significant progress has been made in reducing and controlling dental caries, the disease still remains a problem for many children and adults in the United States. Almost 20 percent of children between the ages of two and four years have had dental caries, and by age 17 nearly four of five youngsters have had at least one carious lesion (cavity) or restoration (filling). More than two-thirds of adults ages 35 to 44 years have lost at least one permanent tooth and about one of every two persons 75 years or older has had root caries affecting at least one tooth.

Dental caries is an infectious, communicable disease resulting in destruction of tooth structure by acid-forming bacteria found in dental plaque, an intraoral biofilm. The disease can result in irreversible loss of tooth minerals and eventually extraction of the tooth, if left unchecked. The availability of fluoride in the mouth, however, can inhibit demineralization, or mineral loss, in early carious lesions and promote remineralization of tooth structure – leading to rebuilt and stronger outer layers of the tooth (i.e., enamel on the crown of the tooth and cementum on the root). Water fluoridation, use of other fluoride therapies such as daily tooth brushing with fluoride-containing toothpaste, placement of dental sealants, and other appropriate oral health care currently are utilized in the prevention and control of dental caries.

During the past few decades changes have been observed not only in the prevalence of dental caries, but also in the distribution and pattern of the disease in the population. Most notably, the relative distribution of dental caries on different tooth surfaces has changed, and the rate of lesion progression through teeth has slowed. These changes have important implications for diagnosing and treating incipient lesions, predicting caries risk, and conducting effective disease prevention programs for individuals or populations. Scientific research continues to make progress in the identification of best practices for diagnosing, treating, and preventing dental caries. Traditional approaches for treating carious lesions in a surgical manner are being replaced by newer strategies that emphasize disease prevention and conservation of tooth structure.

This bibliography was prepared in support of the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference on Diagnosis and Management of Dental Caries Throughout Life, held in Bethesda, Maryland on March 26-28, 2001. The conference addressed these key questions:

What are the best methods for detecting early and advanced dental caries (validity and feasibility of traditional methods; validity and feasibility of emerging methods)? What are the best indicators for an increased risk of dental caries? What are the best methods available for the primary prevention of dental caries initiation throughout life? What are the best treatments available for reversing or arresting the progression of early dental caries? How should clinical decisions regarding prevention and/or treatment be affected by detection methods and risk assessment? What are promising new research directions for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of dental caries?

The bibliography consists primarily of citations to journal articles written in English and published between 1980 through 2000; some other types of publications such as conference papers have been included as well as some foreign language articles. Both animal and human studies are included, while letters to the editor have been excluded. Items were selected for the bibliography based on topics to be covered at the conference. The bibliography is organized thematically, such that topic areas follow in the order of the conference themes and presentations. Many items are listed under more than one category.

Users of this bibliography may also be interested in an additional Web site prepared for this conference by the University of Michigan Dentistry Library at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/dentlib/nihcdc/>.

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al-Sehaibany F, White G, Rainey JT.	The use of caries detector dye in diagnosis of occlusal carious lesions.				
J Clin Pediatr Dent	1996 Summer;20(4):293-8.				Available from: PubMed; PMID 9151621
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Patrias, Karen. National Library of Medicine recommended formats for bibliographic citation. Bethesda (MD): The Library; 1991 Apr. Available from: NTIS, Springfield, VA; PB91-182030.



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### Clinical Diagnosis

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## Antimicrobial Agents

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