

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY TEETH

Lec. 5

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MORPHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIMARY AND PERMANENT TEETH

1. The crowns of the primary teeth are wider mesiodistally in comparison with the crown length than are those of the permanent teeth.
2. The roots of primary anterior teeth are narrow and long compared with crown width and length.
3. The roots of the primary molars are relatively longer and more slender than roots of the permanent teeth. There is also greater extension of the primary roots mesiodistally. This flaring allows more room between the roots for development of the premolar tooth crowns.

4. The cervical ridge of enamel at the cervical third of the anterior crowns is much more prominent labially and lingually in the primary than in the permanent teeth.
5. The crowns and roots of primary molars are more slender mesiodistally at the cervical third than are those of the permanent molars.
6. The cervical ridge on the buccal aspect of the primary molars is much more definite, particularly on the maxillary and mandibular first molars, than that on the permanent molars.
7. The buccal and lingual surfaces of the primary molars are flatter above the cervical curvatures than those of permanent molars, which makes the occlusal surface narrower compared with that of the permanent teeth.
8. The primary teeth are usually lighter in color than the permanent teeth.

SIZE AND MORPHOLOGY OF THE PRIMARY TOOTH PULP CHAMBER

- Immediately after eruption the pulp chambers are large and in general follow the outline of the crown.
- The pulp chamber decrease in size as age increase and under the influence of function and of abrasion of the occlusal and incisal surfaces of the teeth.
- No attempt is made here to discribe in details each pulp chamber outline. Suggest the dentist to take bite-wing radiographs to the child before doing operative procedures.
- Radiograph will not demonstrate completely the extent of pulp horn into the cuspal area.
- Differences in the calcification time and eruption time lead to differences in the morphology of the crowns and size of pulp chamber.

DEFINITION

- *Pediatric dentistry* is an age specific specialty that provides both primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for infants and children through adolescence including those with special health care needs.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To create not only good patient but also a good citizen of tomorrow.
- Instill a positive attitude and behavior.
- To provide total quality health care for infants, young children and adolescents.
- Introduce and implement the principles of preventive dentistry from birth.
- To promote awareness regarding the importance of oral health in the community, through dental health education.

- Parental guidance and counseling in regards to various treatment modalities including different facets of preventive dentistry.
- Early diagnosis of the disease and treatment.
- Restore the lost tooth structure to maintain harmony between the hard and soft tissue.
- Occlusal guidance and early treatment of developing malocclusion.
- Managing physically disabled, mentally challenged and medically compromised children.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BABY TEETH

- Many parents overlook the importance of their child's teeth, especially their primary teeth. Some parents do not realize teeth serve functions other than biting and chewing.

DECIDUOUS TEETH PERFORMED THE FOLLOWING FUNCTION :

1. Help provide nutrition.
 2. Help make speech possible.
 3. Aids in the normal development of the jaw bones and facial muscles like muscles in other parts of the body.
 4. Add to an attractive appearance.
 5. Reserve space for the permanent teeth and help guide them into position.
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Thank you

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