FDI DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT (revision)

Minimal Intervention Dentistry (MID)
for Managing Dental Caries

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October 2002, Vienna, Austria

CONTEXT
Since the appearance of the first policy statement on MID in 2002, its understanding has evolved and evidence-based outcomes of new and existing preventive and restorative treatments have become available.

SCOPE
Visual/tactile assessment instruments and electronically driven devices are available to detect carious lesions and to assess caries risk and activity. The development and progression of carious lesions can be controlled. The outcome of the caries activity assessment, together with the usage predictive power of validated caries risk assessment tools, will guide the dental practitioner in deciding which evidence-based carious lesion controlling measures to use and to determine the tailor-made recall sessions.

The demineralization process of dental caries can be halted by reducing the intake and frequency of sugar in the diet and removing the biofilm twice daily with a fluoride-containing toothpaste. Evidence-containing measures to prevent carious lesions include fluoride in water, in gel, in varnish and paste, and in pits and fissures sealants. Some recently developed measures such as resin infiltration and CPP-ACP paste are promising.

Minimally invasive operative interventions are limited to the removal of friable enamel and soft dentine, which minimalizes the cavity size. Sealing such a treated cavity with a quality adhesive dental material will prolong tooth survival. Evidence has shown that the long-term survival of repaired defective restorations is as good as that of replaced defective restorations. Replacement is therefore considered over-treatment in many cases while repairing is considered an appropriate minimal invasive operative intervention.

DEFINITIONS
MID is a dental caries management concept whose purpose is to keep remineralisable and healthy tooth tissue alive in order to preserve teeth until old age. Tooth tissue should not be removed unnecessarily. The major MID components include: 1) early detection of carious lesion and assessment of caries risk and activity; 2) remineralisation of demineralised enamel and dentine; 3) optimal measurements to keep sound teeth
sound; 4) tailor-made dental recalls; 5) minimally invasive operative interventions to ensure tooth survival; 6) repairing rather than replacing defective restorations.

PRINCIPLES

The aim of MID is to maintain as much healthy tooth structure as possible and - keep teeth functional for life. This has become all the more important as life expectancy is steadily increasing steadily. People should be able to enjoy the full function of a good natural dentition also in old age.

POLICY

FDI World Dental Federation supports Minimal Intervention Dentistry (MID) as the contemporary manner to manage dental caries.

KEYWORDS

Minimal Intervention Dentistry, dental caries, caries prevention, restoration, caries assessment.

DISCLAIMER

The information in this Policy Statement was based on the best scientific evidence available at the time. It may be interpreted to reflect prevailing cultural sensitivities and socio-economic constraints.

REFERENCES


