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## SEALANTS

Sealants are a great advancement in preventive dentistry and a major reason why children can become “Cavity Free.” A sealant is a non-toxic liquid plastic material that can be applied to the biting surface of the back (molar) teeth to protect them from developing a cavity. The biting surfaces of the molar teeth are characterized by numerous rough crevices and grooves known as “pits and fissures.” These areas account for approximately 80-90% of all cavities in permanent molars and 44% in primary (baby) molars. Sealants reduce the risk of cavities and the need for restorations (fillings) in these susceptible areas.

Placement of sealants is painless and simple for our pediatric patients. The tooth to be sealed is first cleaned with a conditioner that prepares the enamel surface for bonding. The tooth is then washed and dried, and the sealant material is painted onto the tooth where it is hardened (cured) with a special light. This light curing process takes only seconds and micromechanically bonds the sealant material to the tooth. There are no restrictions after sealants are placed and your child can eat or drink right away.

Sealants are very safe for all children. The product that we use has been thoroughly tested and valuated and has never had a report of an adverse reaction. There is no Bisphenol A (BPA) or Bisphenol A glycidyl methacrylate (bis-GMA) in our sealant material.

For most children, sealants should be applied to the permanent six year molars sometime between age six and eight, just after these teeth fully erupt and before decay has a chance to develop. Later, as the twelve year molars erupt, these teeth should also be sealed. In some cases, if any of the primary (baby) molars show evidence of deep crevices and are susceptible to cavity formation, we may recommend sealing these teeth in order to maintain a cavity free child.

In most cases, the application of a sealant will last for many years. Each sealed tooth is evaluated carefully at each check-up visit to make sure that it is intact. If a sealant requires replacement at any time up to three years from initial application, there is no additional fee. Keep in mind that sealants are only an adjunct in preventing cavities. The success of your child’s sealants will depend on the care given to them at home. A diet rich in sugary foods, fruit roll-ups, chewing gum and soft drinks containing sugar will promote cavity formation in spite of sealants.

Our goal and yours is to keep your children free of dental decay. Proper diet and nutrition, use of fluorides and the application of sealants are all part of an overall prevention program designed to keep your child **CAVITY FREE**. If you have any questions about sealants, please feel free to ask one of our clinical staff members.

### Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Sonia Wu, DMD  
Dr. Nicole Harrington, DMD  
Dr. Matthew Freitas, DMD  
Dr. Sean Ghassem-Zadeh, DMD  
Dr. Patrick Cooper, DMD  
Dr. Karina Vergara, DMD  
Dr. Kristen Huber, DMD

### Orthodontics

Dr. Shannon Duffy, DMD  
Dr. Carolyn Ferrick, DMD

### Adult Dentistry

Dr. Kimberly Weiss, DDS  
Dr. Melissa Torres, DDS