

PERIODONTITIS IN CHILDREN: CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT

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Summary: Periodontitis in children is rare. It occurs when a small patient does not adhere to the rules of hygienic dental care. Food particles linger and settle on the gums and teeth. This plaque becomes a breeding ground in which pathogenic microorganisms actively multiply.

Keywords: Paradontitis, malocclusion, maxillary system, bleeding gums, sanitation of carious foci, radiography, braces.

Relevance: Periodontitis in children is rare. It occurs when a small patient does not adhere to the rules of hygienic dental care. Food particles linger and settle on the gums and teeth. This plaque becomes a breeding ground in which pathogenic microorganisms actively multiply.

Such microflora provokes inflammatory changes in periodontal tissues. Inflammation sometimes even leads to the destruction of the dental unit. It is important to start treatment of gum damage immediately in order to prevent the development of negative effects of periodontitis in children with tooth loss.

Features of periodontitis in children. Periodontitis is an inflammatory lesion of periodontal tissues. It is characterized by the progressive destruction of all structures. The bone of the alveolar process of the jaw may be affected. With this inflammation of the gums, the ligaments that hold the tooth in the hole are destroyed. Over time, periodontal gingival pockets form. The inflammatory process then engulfs the bone. As a result, the child's teeth become loose and fall out. Signs of periodontitis are detected in children more often between the ages of nine and eleven years. They affect up to 5% of small patients. Periodontitis in children has some features of the course. In babies, inflammation develops in tissues that are still functionally immature. They are growing rapidly, and their structure is constantly being rebuilt. There is often a violent reaction even to minor injuries. Therefore, periodontitis is more aggressive in children. The disease in childhood is divided into pubertal and prepubertal variants. By the nature of the course, chronic and acute forms of the disease are noted. According to the prevalence, local and generalized forms of pathology are distinguished.

Causes of periodontitis in children. There are several causal factors that contribute to inflammation in periodontal tissues. They are divided into local and general. The local group of causes of periodontitis in children includes the following:

1. Insufficient hygiene. Children often do not know how to brush their teeth properly. They do not want to do this regularly, which is why microorganisms accumulate in the gingival

pockets, which cause the inflammatory process.

2. Short bridle. If a child has insufficient length of the frenules of the tongue or lip, gum atrophy occurs due to overgrowth of their fibers. Then the inflammation joins in. It is often located in the tissues near the central incisors on the lower jaw.
3. Unilateral chewing of food. When a child has the habit of chewing food using only one side of the jaw, plaque accumulates on unused teeth.
4. Defects of the dental system. Inflammation in periodontal tissues occurs due to both high and low functional load on certain dental units. A common cause of periodontal inflammation is malocclusion.
5. Injuries. The inflammatory process provokes chronic damage to the gingival tissue by dental structures, sharp edges of fillings or destroyed teeth.
6. The quality of the food. Products that are too soft do not provide sufficient load for the chewing machine, and do not contribute to the self-cleaning of dental surfaces. They cause plaque to form near the base of the teeth. Certain diseases in the form of diabetes mellitus, vitamin deficiency, endocrine disorders, and congenital heart defects cause periodontitis. The weakening of the immune system in toddlers also contributes to the appearance of the disease.

Symptoms of periodontitis in children. With localized periodontitis in children, signs of inflammation are usually detected in a limited area. The symptoms appear in the area of the location of one unit or group of teeth. In the generalized form of periodontitis in children, there is a lesion of soft tissues near all dental units. It is considered the most severe form of periodontal disease.

Periodontitis in children is manifested by the following symptoms:

- acute pain of aching or throbbing nature;
- bleeding gums appear after eating solid foods or brushing them with a toothbrush;
- the mucous membrane is irritated;
- worries about itching in the gum area after eating;
- pus is released from the gingival pockets;
- body temperature rises;

In children with chronic periodontitis, inflammation is cyclical. His clinic is gradually progressing. The baby is worried about itchy gums, their bleeding appears. In the later stages of the disease, the teeth become mobile.

Diagnosis of periodontitis in children. The reasons to suspect periodontitis in a child are the appearance of plaque on the teeth and the presence of solid deposits. The diagnosis is made based on the results of the examination, complaints and data on the course of the disease.

The doctor evaluates the condition of the tissues in the oral cavity. He finds out the position of the tongue and bristles. A search is underway for foci of carious lesions on the teeth. The degree of mobility of dental units is determined using tweezers. The doctor performs palpation of the lymph nodes. It determines the presence of their enlargement and compaction.

Additional diagnostics are used to detect periodontitis in children.:

- radiography and tomography of the jaws;
- general blood test;
- microscopy of a smear from periodontal pockets;
- determination of the level of immunoglobulin.

If there are concomitant diseases that can complicate the course of periodontitis, the patient is sent for consultations to specialized specialists: an endocrinologist, a gastroenterologist, and others.

Treatment of periodontitis in children. The dentist chooses the method of therapy for periodontal inflammation based on the degree of tissue damage and the nature of the course of the disease.

To cure periodontitis in children, the following methods are used to remove the causes of inflammation:

- removal of dental deposits;
- sanitation of carious foci;
- correction of bite defects with braces;
- applications of medicines;
- in severe periodontitis, periodontal pockets and interdental spaces are cleaned.;
- the use of drugs that strengthen the immune system;
- If necessary, antibiotic therapy is used.

The child is taught the correct technique of cleaning teeth and gums. Parents should monitor the proper oral hygiene. If there are signs of gum inflammation, you should immediately go to the dentist. The doctor will prescribe timely treatment that will prevent tooth loss.

Complications .

If this disease is not treated, serious problems will arise.:

- formation of pus;
- bad breath;
- teeth start to grow crookedly;
- caries destroys the dentition;
- loss of permanent teeth;
- Infections spread through the body, and bacteria enter the bloodstream.

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