

Development of colonization of the oral cavity by bacteria

During life, the population of bacteria in our mouths changes.

Childhood

After the birth of a child, its oral cavity is practically sterile. A few hours after birth, the first organisms (*S. salivarius*) begin to appear in the newborn's mouth. Furthermore, other bacteria appear here, although some only for a temporary period (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*). The microbial picture is not very colorful because there is only epithelium to colonize. When the teeth start to erupt, there are many places for bacteria to colonize. The presence of teeth therefore creates conditions for the formation of a complex microbial picture with a potentially cariogenic effect. Infection with microorganisms occurs through the people who take care of the child, most often from the mother. By following proper hygiene habits, the mother significantly improves the condition of the child's lifelong oral health.

Onset of puberty

Most likely, as a result of hormonal changes, there is a shift in the composition of the microbial flora in the sense that there are more strains potentially pathogenic for periodontitis. Cutting the teeth leads not only to the fact that there are more habitable surfaces, but also to the formation of interdental spaces, where facultative and strict anaerobes (*Veillonella*, *Spirochetes*) take refuge.

Old age

After tooth loss, some strains of bacteria disappear. These are mainly cariogenic bacteria – *Streptococcus mutans* and *sanguis*.

Related articles

- Tooth plaque
- Dental caries

Source

- KILIAN, Jan. *Prevence ve stomatologii*. 2. edition. Galén : Karolinum, 1999. ISBN 80-7184-976-6.
- VOTAVA, Miroslav – BROUKAL, Zdeněk. *Lékařská mikrobiologie pro zubní lékaře*. 1. edition. Neptun, 2007. ISBN 978-80-86850-03-0.