

Preservative Dentistry: A New Frontier in Clinical Dentistry

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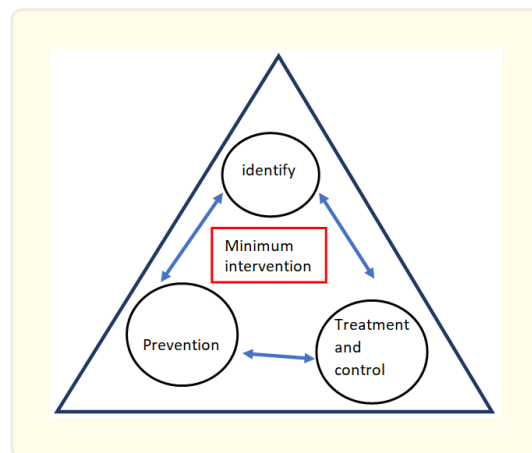
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Dental caries has long been recognized as an infectious disease which occurs due to interplay of four factors namely host, cariogenic microbial flora, a diet rich in refined carbohydrate to sustain that flora and therefore the time for the flora to act on substrate. For almost 100 years, G.V. Black's classification of caries by site has guided the dental profession for restorative management. Therefore, the new understanding of early diagnosis of dental caries and remineralization process changed G.V. Black's definition "Extension for Prevention" to "Minimally Invasive". MID is defined as a conservative philosophy based on sound scientific principles. It is concerned with the first occurrence early detection and repair, rather than replacement of defective restoration and minimum invasive treatment.

The principles of MID are:

1. Early detection of dental caries.
2. Caries risk assessment such as Low, Moderate or High.
3. Minimum invasive treatment.
4. Repair, rather than replacement of defective restoration.

Goals of MID



The focus of MID is on maximum conservation of the demineralized, non cavitated lesion. With use of latest techniques such as laser fluorescence, FOTI, DIAGNOdent system etc. it is now possible to detect the non-cavitated carious lesions all over the world. After identifying the demineralized lesion at early stages, the focus is then shifted to remineralization lesions using fluoride and ozone. The minimum intervention concept uses ultra conservative techniques like ART, Cariosolv, Air abrasion, Smart Burs which results in minimum tooth loss structure. With the advent of adhesive restorative materials, it is now possible to conserve tooth structure using minimal invasive cavity preparation because of adhesive materials do not require the incorporation of mechanical retention features

in cavity preparation. Hence to conclude that minimum intervention techniques cause less sound tooth destruction than conventional techniques, thus increasing the survival of teeth. The future of MID is early detection of cavitated lesion/non cavitated lesion and preservation of sound tooth structure.

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