

No evidence on best filling material for the treatment of caries in primary teeth in children

Clinical question	What are the most effective filling materials for the treatment of dental caries in primary teeth in children?
Bottom line	There were no significant differences in outcomes (pain relief, gingival health, restoration failure, patient satisfaction and aesthetics) between the materials tested. These included metal restorations, stainless steel crowns, glass ionomers, resin composites, and polyacid modified resin composites (compomers). The eligible trials enrolled young children (less than 12 years old), with tooth decay involving at least 1 tooth in the primary dentition which was symptomatic or symptom free at the start of the study.
Caveat	No studies were found that compared restorations versus extractions or no treatment as an intervention in children with childhood caries. The study periods ranged from 6 months to 3 years.
Context	Childhood caries (tooth decay) consists of a form of tooth decay that affects the milk teeth (also known as baby or primary teeth). This may range from tooth decay in a single tooth to rampant caries, affecting all the teeth in the mouth. Primary teeth in young children are vital to their development and every effort should be made to retain these teeth for as long as is possible. Dental fillings or restorations have been used as an intervention to repair damaged teeth.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Yengopal V et al. Dental fillings for the treatment of caries in the primary dentition. Cochrane Reviews 2009, Issue 2. Article No. CD004483. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004483.pub2. This review contains 3 studies involving 81 participants.
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[References]

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