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Review Article

# Is dental caries experience increased in HIV-infected children and adolescents? A meta-analysis

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Four studies (two ranked A and two B in the quality assessment) revealed higher caries scores in primary teeth in the HIV-infected patients with mean dmft/dmfs scores of 3.8–4.1/7.8–11.0 compared to the control group 1.5–2.4/3.4–5.1. No differences in caries index were found for permanent dentition. The meta-analysis excluded caries data of permanent teeth and showed a significant association between caries experience in primary dentition and HIV infection considering cavitated and non-cavitated lesions (OR = 2.33, 95% CI = 1.48–3.68) or only cavitated lesions (OR = 2.98, 95% CI = 1.59–5.59). Conclusion. Evidence exists that suggests HIV-infected children/adolescents have an increased caries experience in primary dentition.

Key Words: [child](#) [dental caries](#) [HIV infections](#)

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