ABSTRACT

**Background.** Early childhood caries (ECC) is a serious health problem especially amongst young children. It can be a particularly virulent form of caries, beginning soon after dental eruption, developing on smooth surfaces, progressing rapidly, and having a lasting detrimental impact on the dentition. Frequent nighttime bottle feeding with milk and ad libitum breast-feeding are associated with, but not consistently implicated in ECC. Frequent consumption of between-meal snacks and beverages containing sugars increases the risk of caries due to prolonged contact between sugars in the consumed food or liquid and cariogenic bacteria on the susceptible teeth. **Purpose.** To know the relationship between ECC and the pH of saliva **Method.** Observational subjects were 6 months – 3 years children which were divided into 4 groups, i.e. 6 months children for group I; 1 year children for group II; 2 years children for group 3; and 3 years children for group 4. The teeth were measured with ECC and SECC indices method, which would be used to determine the type of ECC and SECC. After that, the data were recorded and analyzed. **Result.** The prevalence of ECC is 30.8% and the SECC is 29.2%. **Conclusion.** No caries has found in 6 months and 1 year old children. The higher prevalence of ECC and SECC is in 3 years old children. The most caries is found is on mesial maxillary central incisors.

*Keywords: early childhood caries, bottle feeding, sugar, food*