ABSTRACT

Background: Dental caries remains the major problem in children. The prevalence among children in Indonesia is 90%. A pattern of dental caries is nursing caries associated with improper bottle feeding practices in toddlers. Caries activity test is considered to be important to indicate bottle feeding practices which may increase caries risk. Purpose: The purpose of this study were to identify the pattern of nursing bottle feeding in 2-5 years old preschool children regarding caries activity and risk, and to determine the proper bottle feeding. Materials and Methods: This study was conducted on 30 preschool children. The children were examined for caries status (defi) as well as collected for plaque to determine caries activity using Cariostat (CAT21 Test Morita, Japan). Mothers or caregivers received questionnaire regarding bottle feeding pattern. Results: The results of clinical examination, Cariostat and questionnaire showed that caries status, caries activity, and nursing bottle feeding pattern were various. Caries activity has a significant difference with defi (p=0.014). Drinking water after bottle feeding, age when started bottle-feed, and frequency of bottle feeding also play roles related to caries activity although in this study with no significant difference (p>0.05). Adding sugar was not significantly associated with caries activity in this study (p=1.000). Conclusion: Several factors including defi, drinking water after bottle feeding, age when started bottle-feed, and frequency of bottle feeding give significant influence to caries activity in children with nursing bottle habit.

Keywords: caries activity, nursing bottle feeding, defi, Cariostat