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Corresponding Author:
Darren Dhananthat Chawhuaveang,
Division of Pediatric Dentistry,
Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat
University, Pathum Thani 12120,
Thailand
Email: dhanant@connect.hku.hk

Factors Influencing the Protective Effect of Salivary Pellicle Against Dental Erosion: A Concise Review

Darren Dhananthat Chawhuaveang^{1,2}, Awiruth Klaisiri³, Nantawan Krajangta³, Ollie Yiru Yu¹

¹Division of Restorative Dental Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

²Division of Pediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat University, Pathum Thani, Thailand

³Division of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Thammasat University, Pathum Thani, Thailand

Abstract

Dental erosion is the irreversible loss of dental hard tissue caused by chemical processes without bacteria involvement. Dental erosion prevalence has increased due to extensive consumption of acidic foods and drinks or suffering from gastrointestinal diseases. Salivary pellicle acts as a physical barrier that impedes direct contact between the tooth surface and erosive acids. Furthermore, it is a selectively permeable membrane that controls the diffusion of erosive acids to the tooth surface. Therefore, salivary pellicle can protect the tooth surface from erosive demineralization. The protective effect of salivary pellicle depends on the intraoral location, tooth substrate, thickness, formation time, composition, the pH level of erosive acids, and exposure time. This concise review aimed to provide an overview on factors influencing the protective effect of salivary pellicle against dental erosion.

Keywords: dental erosion, erosive acids, protective effect, salivary pellicle