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Risk behaviors and its association with caries activity and dental caries in Japanese children

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Abstract The aim of this study was to assess risk behaviors and its association with caries activity and dental caries in Japanese children. The subjects were 392 young Japanese children who underwent dental health check-up at 18, 30 and 42 months of age. Oral examinations, Cariostat tests and dental health questionnaires were carried out at each time. The caries prevalence of children was 1.5% at 18 months, 9.9% at 30 months and 28.1% at 42 months. Caries activity based on the Cariostat scores of children was correlated with caries status (caries-free/carious) at 42 months. In children with caries during each examination period at 42 months, eating snacks while playing was ranked as the most important behavioral risk ($P < 0.001$), followed by breast-feeding ($P < 0.01$), non setting of time for snacks ($P < 0.05$) and frequency of snacks ($P < 0.05$) at 18 months old; non brushing by mother ($P < 0.05$) and eating snacks while playing ($P < 0.05$) were ranked highest at 30 months old. In addition, eating snacks while playing ($P < 0.001$) at 42 months old was the only a significant factor for children with caries. Caries activity and risk behaviors were associated with caries experience at different age periods of childhood.

Key words Caries activity, Cariostat, Dental caries, Questionnaires, Risk behaviors

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