Teething

Your doctor wants you to have this information about teething. Babies usually start cutting teeth about 6 months of age and continue teething until they are about 3 years old. Because teething irritates the gums, it causes babies to cry and drool a lot and to chew on things. You can help relieve the pain of teething by using the following measures:

- Massage your baby's gums firmly with your finger or an ice cube covered with a cloth. If you do this before meals feeding is easier.
- Let your baby chew on a wet wash cloth or teething ring that you have cooled in the freezer. **Never tie a teething ring around your baby's neck; it could catch on something and choke your baby.** Teething biscuits or frozen banana slices are good for chewing also.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

If nursing or sucking from a bottle is too difficult, you can use a cup to give fluids. Call your doctor if your baby does not respond to treatment. **Call right away if your baby has a fever, uncontrolled fussiness, signs of infection (red, swollen gums), dehydration, or any other serious symptoms**.

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