



DENTAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY

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Dental care is particularly important to maintain during pregnancy. The hormonal changes of pregnancy can cause swelling of the gums, which can lead to periodontal disease. Research has shown that untreated periodontal disease is linked to a six to seven times increased risk of premature birth and low birth weight. The risk is even higher in pregnant diabetics.

Some dentists, periodontists and oral surgeons may have questions or concerns about potential risks when treating pregnant patients. The following procedures are considered to be safe in pregnancy, especially compared to the risks associated with failure to take preventive measures or to treat existing problems.

- Routine dental exam and cleaning.
- Shielded dental x-rays.
- Repair of cavities.
- Crowns.
- Periodontal deep cleaning and scaling.
- Periodontal surgery.
- Local anesthesia: preferably without epinephrine, but local with epi can be used when indicated.
- Penicillin, Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, Acetaminophen or Codeine, in the absence of allergy.

Treatments that are NOT safe in pregnancy include fluoride treatment and tooth whitening procedures.

Please present this letter to your dental provider, and let him/her know that we are always available for telephone consultation.