Oral Health Need Assessment: Recognizing Signs and Symptoms

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Decay
Demineralization

- First Step In Decay
  - Chalky white line
  - Typically at the Gumline
  - Soft Feeling
- Can Remineralize
Demineralization and Decay

Researchgate.net
Demineralization or Decay?

Pocketdentistry.com
Recommended Treatment for Demineralization

- **Fluoride Varnish**
  - Studies demonstrate 30-35% caries reduction
    - (SFL Caries Assessment Fluoride Varnish and Counseling)
- **OTC Fluoride Toothpaste**
- **OTC Fluoride Rinse**
- **Rx Fluoride Toothpaste**
- **SDF (Silver Diamine Fluoride)**
  - “Decay Stopping Fluoride”
    - Turns areas of decay dark brown or black
  - Typically used on posterior teeth
  - Can be used on anterior teeth but esthetics is a concern
Fluoride Toothpaste Recommendations

- It is recommended that ALL children use a fluoride toothpaste.
  - Children who do not know how to spit use a grain of rice sized amount of toothpaste.
  - We know they will swallow but the benefit outweighs the risk of fluorosis
Fluoride Varnish Recommendations

- 2-4 applications per year is SAFE!
  - High Caries Risk patients can have 4 applications of fluoride varnish per year.
    - Typically one dose of fluoride varnish may come from the primary care clinician during a well child visit.
    - Medical coverage for fluoride varnish is billed differently than dental coverage and will not interfere with fluoride applications and reimbursement at a dental office.
    - The minimum Medical coverage is one application per year until the child turns 6 years of age.
      - A child 5 years and 364 days old is still eligible for fluoride varnish in a medical setting. If attached to a 5 year old well child visit.
Does your child have a dentist?

Greater Seacoast, Lower Strafford County, and Southeastern NH

- The answer can be misleading!
- It depends on how the question is worded:
  - Does your family have a dentist?
    - Answer is Yes. My question is has this child seen a dentist?
  - Does your child have a dental home?
    - A School Based Dental Program (SBDP) is not considered a dental home.
      - Some SBDP’s do have the ability to become a dental home as they are run by a dental office. But getting children to the location is the hardest part.
    - Many families believe if their child is being seen at school they are all set.
Does your child have a dentist? Continued

- Most School Based Dental Programs have been on hold since March 2020.
  - Frisbie Memorial Hospital covered 12 schools including Chamberlain Street, East Rochester, Farmington, Gonic, Idlehurst, Maple Street Magnet, Maplewood, McClelland, Milton, Nancy Loud, School St, William-Allen
  - Goodwin Community Health Center covered 3 schools including Garison, Horne St, Woodman Park
  - Lamprey Health Center covered 9 schools including Candia, Deerfield, Epping, Iber Holmes Middle, Freemont, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham
  - Families First Health and Support Center covered 8 schools including Dondero, Little Harbor, New Franklin, Newington, Portsmouth Middle, Robert Lister Academy, Seacoast Community School
  - Wentworth Douglas Health Partners covered 6 schools including Horne Street, Woodman Park and Idlehurst
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It depends on how the question is worded:

- Does your family have a dentist?
  - Answer is Yes. My question is has this child seen a dentist?

- Does your child have a dental home?
  - A School Based Dental Program (SBDP) is not considered a dental home.
    - Some of area SBDP’s do have the ability to become a dental home as they are run by a dental office. But getting children to the location is the hardest part.
  - Many families believe if their child is being seen at school they are all set.
  - Both Cheshire Smiles and Monadnock Healthy Teeth have been on hold since March 2020.
    - Cheshire Smiles covered 21 schools in Keene and Monadnock School Districts, Hinsdale, Winchester, Alstead, Langdon and Acworth.
    - Monadnock Healthy Teeth at Monadnock Community Hospital covered 23 locations in Conval, Conant and Mascenic School Districts.
Decay at the CEJ (Cementoenamel Junction)
“Fresh” Interproximal Decay

Intechopen.com
Occlusal Decay
Root Caries
Most Common in Geriatric Patients

Juniordentist.com
Enamel Hypoplasia vs. Fluorosis

Enamel Hypoplasia
(Defect of the Enamel that Only Occurs While Teeth Are Developing)

Dental Fluorosis
(Related to Ingesting Too Much Fluoride)

Qsota.com

NORMAL
MILD
MODERATE
SEVERE
Infections
Can You Find It?
Draining Abscess
Dental Abscess

- **Signs and Symptoms**
  - Pain
  - Swelling
  - Fistula
  - Sensitivity to Pressure i.e. Chewing
  - Sensitivity to Hot
  - Bad Taste In Mouth- Randomly
  - Patient describes popping a pimple within their mouth
Periapical Abscess

Definition:
Inflammation with pus in the tissues surrounding the apex of a tooth.
Periodontal Abscess

Definition: A localized collection of pus in the periodontal tissue

Abscess Examples

Abscess Examples

Dental Referral and Treatment is Indicated

Antibiotics

- It is easier for a dentist to isolate the problematic tooth before antibiotics are given. Dentists can and do prescribe antibiotics.
  - Patients given antibiotics first and referral second tend to not follow through with the referral.

Pain Relief

- Alternate Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen

Refer to a Dentist
When to Schedule, Send to Urgent Care or ED/ER

- Facial Swelling
  - Swelling can travel down the neck
- Difficulty Swallowing
- Reports Fever
- If significant recommend ED or Urgent Care
- For any of the above symptoms, prescribing an antibiotic would be appropriate
  - Stress the need to follow through with referral to a dentist.
  - Explain to patient that without appropriate dental treatment, infection will return.
Other Dental Conditions

Abfraction

Pericornitis

Dentagama.com

Slideplayer.com
My patient and I have identified dental concerns, what now?

- Make a Written Referral
  - Helps to triage patient on the dental side
  - This helps with follow through on everyone’s end
Referral Options for Adults

Greater Seacoast, Lower Strafford County, and Southeastern NH

- For patients with limited resources and/or coverage
  - Wentworth-Douglass Community Dental Center, Dover
  - Goodwin Community Health Dental Center, Somersworth
  - Greater Nashua Dental Connection, Nashua
  - Saving People’s Smile Dental, Concord
  - Families First Health and Support Center, Portsmouth
Referral Options for Adults

*Greater Monadnock, Upper Valley and Southwestern NH*

- For patients with limited resources and/or coverage
  - Dental Health Works, Keene
  - Greater Nashua Dental Connection, Nashua
  - Saving Peoples Smile, Concord
  - Community Dental Care of Claremont, Claremont
Content Feedback!

Quick Poll Questions for Medical Providers

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Questions?
Comments?

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