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OB/GYN

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Dental Care During Pregnancy

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 six to seven times increased risk of premature birth and low birth weight. The risk is even higher in pregnant diabetics.

Some dentists and periodontists may be hesitant to treat pregnant patients due to concerns about the risks. The following procedures are considered to be safe in pregnancy, while failure to take preventative measures or to treat existing problems may not be safe.

- 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 epinephrine can be used when indicated.
- Penicillin, Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, or Codeine – in the absence of allergy.

Please present this letter to your dentist, and let him/her know that we are always available to provide telephone consultation by calling the office at **(978) 369-7627** and asking to speak with a nurse.