

Risk Assessment

Dental Caries

| RISK FACTORS | PROTECTIVE FACTORS |
|--|--|
| <i>All Ages: Examples</i> | <i>All Ages: Examples</i> |
| Inadequate fluoride | Optimal systemic and/or topical fluoride |
| Inadequate oral hygiene | Good oral hygiene |
| Poor family oral health | Access to care and good oral hygiene |
| Poverty | Access to care |
| Frequent snacking | Reduction in snacking frequency |
| Special carbohydrate diet | Preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Frequent intake of sugared medications | Alternate medications or preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Reduced saliva flow from medication or irradiation | Saliva substitutes |
| Variations in tooth enamel; deep pits and fissures; anatomically susceptible areas | Sealants (if possible) or observation |
| Special health needs | Preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Previous caries experience | Increased frequency of supervision visits |
| Gastric reflux | Management of condition |
| High mutans streptococci count | Reduction of mutans streptococci |
| <i>Infancy: Examples</i> | <i>Infancy: Examples</i> |
| Bottle used at night for sleep or “at will” while awake | Prevention of bottle habit and weaning from bottle by 12 months |
| High parental levels of bacteria (mutans streptococci) | Good parental oral health and hygiene |
| History of baby bottle tooth decay | Increased frequency of supervision visits |



Risk Assessment

Periodontal Disease

| RISK FACTORS | PROTECTIVE FACTORS |
|--|--|
| <i>All Ages: Examples</i> | <i>All Ages: Examples</i> |
| Inadequate oral hygiene | Good oral hygiene |
| Unrestored caries | Restoration of carious lesions |
| Poor family oral health | Access to care and good oral hygiene |
| Poverty | Access to care |
| Special health needs | Preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Nutritional deficiency (e.g., vitamin C) | Healthy eating habits |
| Infectious disease (e.g., HIV/AIDS) | Treatment of disease or preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Medications (e.g., Dilantin) | Preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes, hypophosphatasia) | Treatment of disease |
| Neoplastic disease (e.g., leukemia and its treatment) | Treatment of disease and preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Genetic predisposition (e.g., Down or Papillon Lefevre syndrome) | Preventive intervention to minimize effects |
| Poor-quality restorations | Properly contoured and finished restorations |
| Mouthbreathing | Management of mouthbreathing |
| Injury | Use of age-appropriate safety measures and treatment of injury |
| <i>Infancy: Examples</i> | <i>Infancy: Examples</i> |
| None | None |

Malocclusion

| RISK FACTORS | PROTECTIVE FACTORS |
|---|--|
| <i>All Ages: Examples</i> | <i>All Ages: Examples</i> |
| Congenital absence of teeth | Early intervention |
| Variations in development (e.g., tooth eruption delays and malpositioned teeth) | Early intervention |
| Conditions associated with malocclusion (e.g., cleft lip/palate) | Early intervention |
| Injury | Use of age-appropriate safety measures and treatment of injury |
| Acquired problem from systemic condition or its therapy | Dental intervention as a part of medical care |
| Family tendency toward malocclusion | Early intervention |
| Musculoskeletal conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy) | Dental intervention as a part of medical care |
| Skeletal growth disorders (e.g., renal disease) | Dental intervention as a part of medical care |
| <i>Infancy: Examples</i> | <i>Infancy: Examples</i> |
| None | None |

Injury

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>All Ages: Examples</i> | <i>All Ages: Examples</i> |
| Substance abuse in family | Referral for counseling |
| Child abuse or neglect | Referral for counseling |
| Multiple family problems | Referral for counseling |
| Lack of protective reflexes | Referral for appropriate therapy |
| <i>Infancy: Examples</i> | <i>Infancy: Examples</i> |
| Failure to use safety measures appropriate for infant (e.g., car safety seats, stair gates) | Use of infant-appropriate safety measures |

