



Providing Dental Care for Patients Undergoing Cancer Treatment Oral Care Prevention and Treatment Options Checklist.

Patients preparing for cancer treatment should schedule a dental appointment as soon as possible in order to complete the necessary dental evaluation and treatment before cancer treatment begins. Please consult the patient's dental benefits plan regarding covered procedures and any plan limitations.

Before any treatment begins (Chemotherapy, radiation or bone marrow transplant):

Consult with oncologist about the plan for treatment of cancer and how dental and medical care can be coordinated and/or make arrangements for referral to dental cancer care specialist (generally found in large hospital dental clinics).

- Explain the role of dental health and potential oral complications of cancer treatment to the patient.
- Complete dental exam with periodontal charting and full mouth series of radiographs if not done within six months.
- Prophylaxis or scaling and root planing if appropriate and oral hygiene instruction.

Consider:

- Extraction of all teeth with a hopeless or guarded prognosis including:
 - Partially erupted teeth.
 - Teeth with moderate to severe periodontitis.
 - Root tips.
 - Teeth with severe caries or periapical pathology
 - Endodontic treatment at this time is generally not preferred because of time limitations and possibility of treatment failure.
 - Loose primary teeth or those expected to exfoliate in children.
- Restore caries, fractures, or defective restorations.
- Replace any restoration that may cause soft tissue irritation.
- Remove orthodontic appliances.
- Relieve areas of irritation on dentures or partials.
- Follow-up visits every 2-3 months for evaluation of oral complications. Any treatment including dental cleanings during cancer therapy should be done only after consultation with the patient's oncologist.

During Treatment:

- Instruct patient to call Oncologist if they experience any mouth sores or other types of infections.
- Provide patient with preventive therapies to control xerostomia, mucositis, and caries.*
- Discuss diet/nutrition and instruct patient to drink plenty of water.
- Provide oral hygiene instruction.

*For additional information, please call Delta Dental of Massachusetts at 1-877-335-8227.