

ADVANCED OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY, LLC

“Comprehensive Healthcare for Women”

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INFORMATION REGARDING DENTAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY

Preventive dental cleanings and annual exams during pregnancy are not only safe, but are recommended. Pregnancy causes hormonal changes that increase your risk of developing gum disease, which in turn, can affect the health of your developing baby.

What about other regular dental work during pregnancy?

Dental work such as cavity fillings and crowns should be treated to reduce the chance of infection. The safest course of action is to postpone all unnecessary dental work until after the birth. However, sometimes emergency dental work such as a root canal or tooth extraction is necessary.

Elective treatments, such as teeth whitening and other cosmetic procedures, should be postponed until after the birth. Routine x-rays, usually taken during annual exams, should be postponed until after the birth.

What about medications used in dental work during pregnancy?

Dental work often requires antibiotics to prevent or treat infections. Antibiotics such as penicillin, amoxicillin, clindamycin, and cephalosporins may be prescribed after your procedure.

If you develop a dental emergency, the following may be used:

- Anesthesia – local anesthetics **WITHOUT EPINEPHRINE**
- Analgesics – Extra Strength Tylenol, Tylenol with codeine or Percocet
- X-rays – Only if absolutely necessary to perform emergent dental procedures. If you absolutely require x-rays, make sure the dentist or technician gives you a leaded collar to protect your thyroid in addition to the regular leaded apron to protect your entire abdomen.

Please give your dentist a copy of this information sheet when you are seen for care.