Dental Health
Part of your transplant care

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Pre-Transplant Dental Care

A healthy mouth is an important part of overall health, and will help you to maintain your nutritional needs before and after transplant treatment. Having your teeth and gums free from infection prior to your transplant treatment will aid in reducing the oral effects of immunosuppressive medications taken after transplant treatment. Taking care of cavities, periodontal (gum) disease, and any other mouth problems ahead of time can help prevent or reduce the oral side effects of transplant medicines.

Post-Transplant Dental Care

Anti-rejection medications suppress your immune system and make it easier for you to develop infections and other problems in your mouth, including:

- Dry mouth: “cotton mouth” feeling you get when you don’t have enough saliva to keep your mouth moist. Dry mouth increases your risk for tooth decay.
- Mouth ulcers: sores in the soft lining of the mouth that can make chewing, speaking or swallowing painful.
- Infections: such as gum disease that can harm the tissues holding the teeth in place, or thrush—a fungus infection that appears as creamy white patches in the mouth.
- Gingival overgrowth—enlarged gums that cover part of the teeth, making brushing and flossing difficult and increasing the risk for bleeding and infection.
- Tumors: mouth cancers that occur in some transplant patients, especially those who have smoked.

Three to six months after your transplant, your dentist should evaluate and treat any new dental disease and help you manage oral side effects that may occur resulting from transplant medication. All mouth problems should be treated.

It’s important for your dentist and your transplant doctor to speak with each other before dental treatment. Together, they will work out a dental care plan that safely meets your needs.

Keeping Your Mouth Healthy

It is important to brush and floss every day. Good daily oral hygiene is vital to keeping your mouth healthy. If you have any questions about brushing and flossing, particularly if your mouth is sore, ask your dentist or dental hygienist.

Remember:
- Have a dental check-up before your transplant procedure
- Consult transplant doctor before having any teeth removed
- See your dentist regularly after your transplant
- Call your dentist when you notice any problem or change in your mouth
- Take care of your mouth every day

Patient Services

Pre transplant:
- Pre-transplant assessment
- Restorative and therapeutic dentistry
- Dental hygiene instructions
- Oral cancer screening

Post transplant:
- Prevention & treatment of mouth and throat sores
- Prevention & treatment of dry mouth and reduced salivary flow
- Management of oral infections and complications
- Management of oral pain
- Restorative and therapeutic dentistry
- Oral cancer screening