

Mouth Care

Keeping the mouth and teeth as clean as possible is important and may prevent infection and/or mouth sores.

- Brush your teeth with a soft toothbrush after each meal and before bed.
- Electric soft toothbrushes can be used.
- Children under six years old should have their mouth care provided by an adult caregiver.
- Rinse the mouth with water frequently to keep your child's mouth moist.
- Recommended amounts of toothpaste:
 - Children under six years old, place a pea size drop of toothpaste on brush.
 - Children over six years old, place about 1 inch of toothpaste on brush.
- Do not use mouthwashes that contain alcohol as it is very drying to the mouth.
- Patients who have fluoridated water do not need fluoride supplements.

Dental Visits

Patients should see a dentist regularly. Scheduling this appointment is depending on blood counts and treatment. An antibiotic may be necessary. Speak to your healthcare provider before seeing the dentist.

Mouth Sores

Some chemotherapy medicines and radiation therapy can cause sores known as *mucositis*. Mucositis can also occur throughout the digestive system (mouth, throat, stomach and intestines).

Your child's mouth or tongue may look reddened or have white spots. Sometimes white plaques (small raised areas) occur, an infection known as thrush. A medicine will be prescribed to treat the infection.

Some things that may help:

- Drinking cold or room temperature fluids through a straw
- Avoiding hot, spicy or acidic foods
- Eating foods that are soft, tender or pureed (beaten or blended)
- Cutting food into small pieces
- Taking pain medication

When to call:

- Your child cannot drink fluids
- Your child can not swallow
- Your child is in pain

Mouth Care

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911