



AFA OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY, P.C.

DENTAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY

Dental care is particularly important to maintain during pregnancy. The hormonal changes of pregnancy can cause swelling of the gums, which lead to periodontal disease. Research has shown that untreated periodontal disease is linked to a six to seven times increased risk of premature birth and low birth weight. The risk is even higher in pregnant diabetics.

Some dentists and periodontists may be hesitant to treat pregnant patients due to concerns about the risks. The following procedures are considered to be safe in pregnancy. (Meanwhile, failure to take preventative measures or to treat existing problems may not be safe.)

- Routine dental exams and cleanings
- Shielded dental x-rays
- Repair of cavities
- Crowns / root canals
- Periodontal deep cleaning and scaling
- Periodontal surgery
- Local anesthesia – preferably without epinephrine, but local with epi can be used when indicated
- Penicillin, Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, or Codeine (in the absence of allergy)

****Please present this letter to your dentist and inform him/her that we are always available to provide telephone consultation by calling 978-371-1396.**