Chemo without Cavities

Erin Hartnett DNP, APRN, PPCNP-BC, CPNP
Problem
Dental Caries in Children
Professional Policy Updates

- 2001  AAPD: Define a Dental Home (2012)
- 2002  AAPD: Develop a Caries Risk Assessment Tool -
- 2006  ADA : First EBP guideline : Topical fluoride
- 2008  AAP : Policy on Preventive Oral Health Intervention for Pediatricians
- 2008  AAPD: Updates Guideline for pediatric oncology patients (2013)
- 2009 Medicaid coverage for Fluoride varnish (FV) application by non-dental providers
- 2009: State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) covers FV
- 2010 & 2020: Healthy People choose Oral Health as health indicator
Where do Caries Come from??
Early Childhood Caries Can Lead to...

- Extreme pain
- Spread of infection
- Difficulty chewing, poor weight gain
- Falling off the growth curve
- Extensive and costly dental treatment
- Risk of dental decay in adult teeth
- Missed school days
- Impaired language development
- Inability to concentrate in school
- Reduced self-esteem
- Possible facial cellulitis requiring hospitalization
- SEPSIS - Possible systemic illness for children with special health care needs
Pediatric Oncology Issues Related to Cancer Treatment

- Pain
- Fever
- Mucositis
- Xerostomia
- Fungal infection
- Gingival bleeding
- Vomiting
- Lack of appetite
- Poor nutrition
- Treatment delay

Carillo et al., 2010; daFonesca, 2004; Moursi et al., 2010; NIH, 1989
Imagine!

Pediatric Oncology Patients with Dental Caries
WHY ??

- Immunocompromised
- Infectious disease
- Impaired saliva
- Poor nutrition
- Frequent feeding
- Most frequent source of sepsis is the *mouth*,
- Families are *overburdened* with medical appointments
- 90% cancer patients develop an oral problem
- 30% - 95% survivors report dental abnormalities
- Tooth formation is occurring during treatment
- Separation of medicine and dentistry
Significance:
Pediatric-Oncology Population

Caries are Preventable
Oral Assessment & Fluoride Varnish Program

Oncology Staff Education Program

- Pre-Survey
- Education Class
  - Handouts
  - PPT
  - Post test
  - Skills Lab
- Post- survey
Child Oral Health Assessment and Fluoride Varnish

www.aap.org
Stages of Early Childhood Caries

www.aap.org
Damage caused by holding medications in mouth
Hematological considerations

ANC
- >2000 - No need for antibiotic prophylaxis
- 1000-2000 – use clinical judgement
- <1000 defer dental care

Platelets
- >75,000 no support needed
- 40,000- 75,000 transfusion considered
- <40,000 defer care
Educate Family and Staff

• Awareness
• Toothbrushing
• Nutrition
• Fluoride
• Frequent water
• Hematologic Considerations
Resources

- Oral Health in America: Report of the Surgeon General
- AAPD Guidelines for Caries Risk Assessment