

## PEDIATRIC CASE STUDY #2

### Smiles for Life

[smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://smilesforlifeoralhealth.org)

You work at a community health center in a rural area of your state. Carol, a 9 month old girl, comes in with her Mom for a routine well child visit. Mom received good prenatal care including dental restoration of several cavities, but unfortunately her pregnancy was complicated by episodes of maternal pyelonephritis and pneumonia, and Carol was delivered at 34 weeks due to premature rupture of membranes. At today's visit, in addition to addressing common issues in the care of former premature infants, you explore Carol's oral health risks. Your oral exam findings are displayed in the photo to the right.



**Which of the following is true about Carol's risk for developing Early Childhood Caries (ECC)?**

- A. Carol is low risk because she was delivered early and her teeth had more time to develop enamel.
- B. Carol is high risk because she was born early and her mother had several infections during her pregnancy.
- C. Carol is low risk because her mother had cavities.
- D. Carol is high risk because her mother is wealthy and has health insurance.

You and Carol's Mom agree that she is at high risk for ECC. Mom is anxious to do all that she can to help Carol avoid the extensive caries that she has experienced herself. She asks you for guidance.

**Which of the following is the most appropriate anticipatory advice for Carol?**

- A. Recommend not worrying about ECC as Carol does not yet have permanent teeth.
- B. Recommend making a dental appointment when Carol reaches the age of 3 years.
- C. Recommend exclusive breastfeeding for another 3 months to reduce Carol's risk of developing ECC.
- D. Recommend Mom start brushing her teeth with fluoridated toothpaste twice daily.

6 months pass, and Carol returns for her 15 month well child visit. On oral exam you note the following:



**Which of the following is most likely to have been a contributing factor to Carol's rapid development of ECC?**

- A. Mom purchased 'baby-safe' all-natural toothpaste for Carol.
- B. Mom offered cheese and fresh fruit for snacks.
- C. Mom limited the frequency of snacks to once between meals.
- D. Mom discontinued use of the bottle at 12 months, and offers only milk or water in her sippy cup.

## **DISCUSSION**

Using the 4 IPEC Competencies (2016) related to:

1. Working with individuals of other professions to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values (Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice);
2. Using the knowledge of one's own role and those of other professions to appropriately assess and address the health care needs of patients and to promote and advance the health of populations (Roles/Responsibilities);
3. Communicating with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health and other fields in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the promotion and maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease (Interprofessional Communication);
4. Applying relationship-building values and the principles of team dynamics to perform effectively in different team roles to plan, deliver and evaluate patient/population-centered care and population health programs and policies that are safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable (Teams and Teamwork).

**Please collaborate as a team to develop a management plan for the above patient.**

- Oral-Systemic Risk Assessment
  - Identify the oral-systemic assessment findings (Hx and PE HEENOT)
  - What does the history and physical tell us about this patient?
  - What additional data do you need to collect (eg. labs, diet and exercise, etc)?
  - Identify oral-systemic risk factors

- Differential Diagnosis(es)
  - Identify the tentative diagnoses for the oral health problems
  - Identify the tentative diagnoses for the systemic health problems
  - Discuss the important oral-systemic connections
- Develop a management plan for the oral-systemic conditions affecting this patient, including:
  - Preventive interventions that include screening and behavior change counseling that are fundamental to patient-centered care
  - Anticipatory guidance
  - Oral health maintenance
  - Collaboration and referral

### **Questions to Guide Your Interprofessional Collaboration**

- Roles and Responsibilities
  - What is the scope of the role and responsibilities of each of the providers on your team today?
- Collaboration
  - How can the Nurse Practitioner, Dentist and Physician collaborate to promote this patient's health?
- Team Building & Communication
  - What do you think are the most effective strategies to help a Nurse Practitioner, Physician, and Dentist function as a community-based primary care?
  - What are the social determinants of health that need to be considered to provide effective whole person care for Carol?
  - What are the most effective ways for the IP team to communicate?
- Referrals and Follow up
  - What providers do these patients need to see? When? How often?
  - What are the follow up actions for which each member of the IP team needs to be responsible to maximize coordinated care for Carol?