

## **PREGNANT PATIENT CASE STUDY #3**

### **Smiles for Life**

**smilesforlifeoralhealth.org**

Anna is a 25-year-old pregnant woman who visits her nurse-midwife for an initial prenatal visit. You take an oral health history and learn that her last dental visit was one year ago. Anna states, "I am afraid to see the dentist, it's not safe for my baby". You check Anna's mouth and notice that her gums are mildly swollen and red, and her teeth have some plaque buildup.

#### **What message should the primary care clinician communicate to Anna?**

- A. "Periodontitis and bacteremia may cause infection of the uterus."
- B. "You are right, seeing a dentist during pregnancy is not safe. It is best to wait until after your baby is born."
- C. "Let me reassure you that oral health care is safe during pregnancy. I encourage you to see a dentist as soon as you can. Do you need help finding a dentist?"
- D. "Here is a brochure that explains why you should see a dentist."

One month later, Anna returns for her monthly check-up. During the clinic visit you notice that Anna is nervous and fidgeting. You take the time to ask her, "What questions or concerns are on your mind"? Anna tells you that she followed your advice and tried to schedule to see her dentist. Her dentist refuses to see her until after her baby is born. Anna states, "I am confused and don't know what to believe."

#### **To address Anna's oral health care concern, how should the nurse-midwife respond to Anna?**

- A. "You can look on the Internet and decide what to do."
- B. "Your dentist is wrong and you should really consider finding a new dentist."
- C. "I still recommend that you see the dentist, so you will have to decide what you think you should do."
- D. "With your permission, I can discuss this with your dentist."

With Anna's permission, you contact her dentist to discuss the patient's oral health care needs. During the discussion, you learn that the dentist did not receive a great deal of training in prenatal oral health care. She is not aware of the recent guidelines emphasizing oral health care as an important component of a healthy pregnancy. You take this opportunity to inform the dentist about the evidence-based guidelines on oral health care in pregnancy.

**To work in collaboration with the dentist to address Anna's oral health care needs, how should a nurse-midwife respond to the dentist?**

- A. "Let's discuss these evidence-based guidelines together".
- B. "The information I am sending will prove that your practices are outdated."
- C. "If you do not reconsider how you practice, I am afraid that I will have to refer Anna to another dentist."
- D. "It is important to keep up on the latest research".

**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-Midwife, Obstetrician, and Dentist function as a community-based primary care team?
  - What are the most effective ways for the IP team to communicate?
- Referrals
  - What providers does this patient need to see? When? How often?
  - What are the follow up actions for each profession?