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Bleeding Disorder Dental Care

Good dental hygiene is important for everyone, including persons with bleeding disorders. However, persons with bleeding disorders do need to take specific safety measures when they are preparing for dental procedures. Additionally, your dental care provider needs to have the essential information necessary for you to get the best results with a procedure or with your long-term dental health.

Planning for Dental Procedures

It's important that your dentist works closely with your hemophilia treatment center (HTC) to develop treatment plans for your dental procedures in order for your procedures to be performed safely. Depending on the severity of the bleeding disorder that you have, you will need special precautions for some dental procedures.

For certain procedures, factor replacement, Stimate™, or Amicar™ may be needed. Some dental procedures require block anesthesia, extractions, large fillings, deep cleanings, and even oral surgery. It is important to contact your HTC before any type of dental procedure to find out if and what pre-treatment may be needed.

Informing Your Dentist

Your dentist should have answers to the following questions in order to give you the best dental care:

- What bleeding disorder do you have and what is the severity of the disorder?
- Do you have an inhibitor and/or a venous access device?
- What medications do you take?
- Do you need any pre-dental treatment with factor concentrate, Stimate™, or Amicar™?
- Who is the best person to contact at your HTC?

Your HTC will give you instructions about how to treat your bleeding disorder and will have specific information for you about the best treatment for your dental procedures.

Getting Braces

Persons with bleeding disorders are able to wear braces (orthodontics). If you need orthodontics, your dentist will refer you to an orthodontist. There you will be fitted with removable or fixed orthodontics. However, before you start any treatment at an orthodontist, this treatment plan should be reviewed with your HTC. It is important to inform the orthodontist about your bleeding disorder so that they can

take extra caution to avoid irritating or cutting the gums when the orthodontic appliance is placed on the teeth. In most cases, having orthodontics placed on the teeth does not cause bleeding, but as additional prevention, the orthodontist can help you learn how to apply dental wax to the wires to protect the gum tissue.

Following Post-Treatment Instructions

Your HTC and your dentist will give you detailed recommendations to follow throughout the healing process after dental procedures. Ice might be suggested in order to decrease any swelling of the mouth. It will likely be recommended that you avoid using straws, eating hot foods, and rinsing your mouth for several days following tooth extraction(s). If it is recommended that you use Amicar™, you should continue this for the duration that is recommended by your HTC, even if you are not bleeding. Amicar™ works by holding the clot in place, so if it is stopped sooner than recommended, there may be re-bleeding.

Special Precautions for Special Cases

If you have a venous access device or a heart murmur, it is recommended that you receive prophylactic antibiotic therapy before certain dental procedures. The following are the American Heart Association's recommendations regarding the use of amoxicillin, but you should follow the specific recommendations of your HTC:

- Adults: 2 grams 1 hour before dental treatment
- Children: 50 mg/kg 1 hour before dental treatment
- For penicillin allergy, take clindamycin:
- Adult: 600 mg 1 hour before dental treatment
- Children: 20 mg/kg 1 hour before dental treatment
- If you have an inhibitor, it is even more important that you discuss your dental procedure in advance with your HTC.

Medical Emergencies

Please note: Some mouth bleeding can block the person's airway. These symptoms should be considered a medical emergency:

- Nonstop bleeding of the tongue, cheek, or floor of the mouth;
- Bruising or swelling of the tongue, throat, or neck; and/or
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing.

If any of these symptoms occur, **contact your HTC** and go the emergency department.

Contact the HTC

Your HTC is a partner in your healthcare, including dental healthcare. Call your HTC, **BCDI**, at **(309) 692-5337**.