

Evaluating Access to Oral Healthcare in Pregnant Patients

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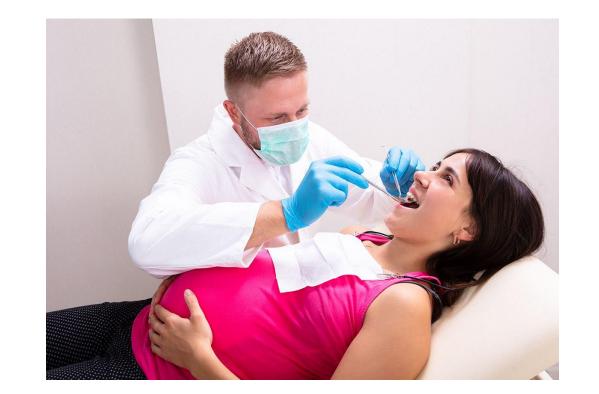
Introduction

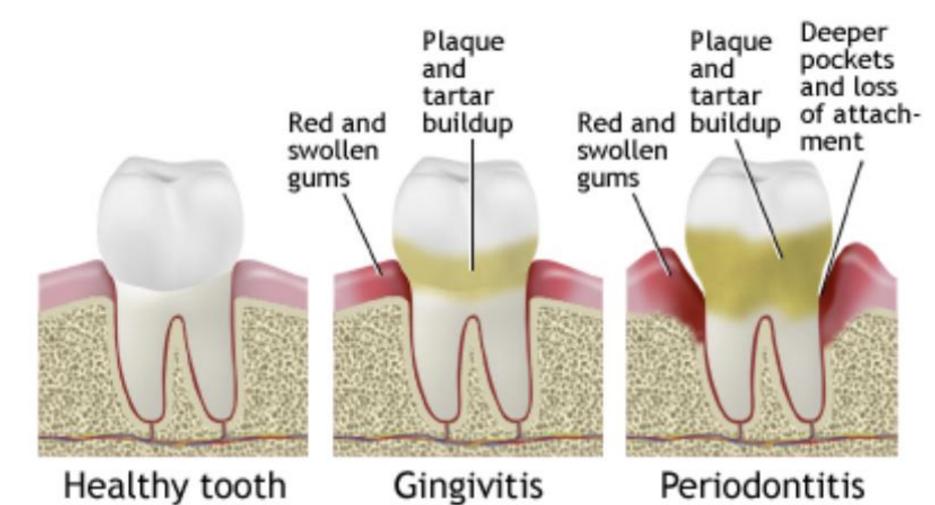
- Spike of estrogen and progesterone can increase the risk of gum disease
- Linked to adverse outcomes: preterm birth and low birth weight
- Dental treatments are safe during all trimesters
- Promoting awareness and understanding of importance of oral health for well being of mother and fetus
- Help them overcome challenges and complete their dental treatment plans effectively.
- pOHP (Prenatal Oral Health Program) encourages collaboration of medical and dental providers
- Their goal: improve health of every women, fetus and child

Aims

Understand the obstacles that pregnant women face in accessing dental care











Methods

Median age: 27 years old 484 patients referred 5 private through pOHP 484 patients referred 1.0% Jan/2022-Dec/2023 236 Medicaid 243 self-paid 48.8% 20 participants randomly 20 participants randomly 50.2% chosen, did not attend any chosen that attended 1 appointments appointment or more 33 one or more 206 no 37 one or more 203 no appointment appointment appointments appointment Called patients, explained study and scheduled an interview 4 more than 19 no 4 more than 26 no emergency 1 emergency emergency emergency 7 one 10 one emergency emergency 11 had 3 had 10 had 6 had Interview – Microsoft treatment treatment treatment dental visits Teams – recorded during during during during and transcribed

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- Study population: Must be over 18, must speak English
- Questions:
 - marriage status
 - vehicle status
 - survey of Knowledge on importance of oral heath care and how it can affect them or their unborn child/children
 - Emotional and physical comfort level during pregnancy and appointment
- UMCIRB 23-000393

Challenges

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Preliminary Results

- Despite initial agreement, some participants did not show up for scheduled appointments.
- Attempts to contact participants via phone were often unsuccessful.
- Several participants required multiple rescheduling attempts due to conflicting schedules or personal reasons.
- Even after rescheduling, some participants still did not attend their appointments.
- Language differences posed a challenge for communication with certain participants.