

Is it safe to visit the dentist during pregnancy? - Smile Solutions

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Goods Administration 's (TGA's) Category A ("Safe to use during pregnancy"). Even so, it is wise to bear in mind that medication often doesn't treat the cause of an oral infection or any other dental problem, and dental treatment is necessary for continued oral health. Local anaesthetic Local anaesthetic used in dental procedures is safe for pregnant patients as long as it is below the maximum dosage. The dentist will 'aspirate' the anaesthetic to reduce the amount that goes into your bloodstream. Untreated dental disease If root canal infection or periodontal infection occurs during pregnancy, treatment is essential so as to prevent exposure of the mother and baby to that bacterial infection. Studies have shown that infection caused by certain types of bacteria that are common in dental infections can affect growth of the foetus, causing preterm and low birth weights. It is therefore important – for the pregnant woman's oral health and for the safety of her unborn child – to treat dental problems when they arise. What is the best time for dental treatment during pregnancy? Treatment of an urgent nature (such as root canal or periodontal infection) should be performed at any time during pregnancy. However, the optimal time for this and any other dental treatment is at the start of the second trimester . At this time, nausea and vomiting have usually subsided, there is no risk of harm to the foetus and the uterus is not yet large enough to cause the patient discomfort in the dental chair. If you require more complex dental procedures, such as filling or crowns during pregnancy, the ideal timing would be the second trimester, when (hopefully!) any morning sickness has subsided, so that interventions in your mouth can be tolerated, and also before your belly is such that lying in the dentist's chair for prolonged periods is quite uncomfortable. The first trimester should be avoided if possible , as this is when the foetus is most vulnerable; and the third trimester is normally too uncomfortable for the patient. Elective treatments, such as teeth whitening and other cosmetic procedures, should be postponed until after the birth. If you are in pain and an oral infection needs to be treated either with root canal or an extraction, the procedure obviously needs to be carried out as soon as possible, before the infection can spread and worsen. Your dentist and/or specialist will most likely need to take an X-ray to diagnose the problem accurately and assist in optimal treatment, and this decision will not be taken lightly. It will be performed only if the gain stands to outweigh the risk, and all care will be taken to protect your unborn child with lead shields. Consultation between your dental practitioner and your obstetrician will take place if any medication needs to be prescribed for your infection. Let your dentist know the stage of your pregnancy and how you are feeling (for example, are you comfortable lying on your back for a period of time?) so that he or she can tailor your appointments to suit the stage of your pregnancy. Finally, enjoy your pregnancy, and all the best with the birth of your child! Uncover more from Smile Solutions View Blogs All Dr Silvia Ciach 16 Jul 2014 I am in my late 60s. How can I keep my teeth in top condition now that I am older? Read More All Dr Silvia Ciach 29 Oct 2013 What are the risks of having dental treatment overseas? Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More All Dr Silvia Ciach 16 Jul 2014 I am in my late 60s. How can I keep my teeth in top condition now that I am older? Read More All Dr Silvia Ciach 29 Oct 2013 What are the risks of having dental treatment overseas? 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