

CANCER TREATMENT AND YOUR TEETH

Some things every Patient, and Care Giver needs to know about
“Compromised Immune Systems”

Or my opinions after three decades of experience, practice, research, and teaching

This is an area of concern that we address in our practice on a weekly basis. I intentionally put “Cancer” in the title to catch attention, but this is a dilemma that ALL persons with any medication or medical condition that compromises the immune system face.

Do you know if you are at risk? Unfortunately, the vast majority of care givers in this area are failing to inform patients of dental risk involved in treatment of many ailments, including cancer. If you will send us a copy of your medications, we will promptly send you an analysis of your medications that may put you at risk.

If you have had radiation treatment, chemotherapy treatment, surgery, high blood pressure, diabetes, or any number of other treatments for less serious conditions, including treatment for, asthma, sinusitis, depression, etc., that reduce the quantity and quality of your salivary flow, the resulting compromise of your immune system has put your dental health at risk. When the problem spins out of control, it may be two years or more before the symptoms progress to decay.

Have you seen the recent ads by Listerine promoting rinsing with their mouthwash to “kill bacteria” for twelve hours? What they don’t tell you is that if you are at risk for decay because of a compromised immune system, Listerine may PROMOTE decay in your mouth.

There are many adjuncts to treatment we recommend that can PREVENT deterioration of your dental health, and Listerine is not one of them. Listerine had their chance and they blew it. We can provide an early warning test that can detect a decay problem before it irreversibly damages teeth. Prevention is a lot cheaper and simpler than trying to catch up with a decay problem that has gotten out of control.

If you are not sure that you are doing everything possible to prevent the heartbreak of rampant decay, make an appointment with us. We can help, starting with an advanced and accurate diagnostic system, and then customizing a prevention program that meets YOUR needs. Don’t wait until it is too late. Call us.

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