Maintaining Oral Health During Pregnancy

Shawna Jackson
Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

Lori Winters
Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2003

Recommended Citation
http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2003/8
Maintaining Oral Health During Pregnancy
Shawna Jackson and Lori Winters
Nancy K. Mann, RDH, MSEd.
Department of Dental Hygiene
Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne

Changes can take place inside the mouth during pregnancy. Increased hormone levels are known to be a source of changes, especially in soft tissues. It has been well documented that periodontal disease can be a risk factor in preterm low birth weight babies. This presentation is an information guide on oral health to women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. This includes basic information about the teeth and how to take care of them as well as nutritional aspects for the new mother and infant. Also included is information about pregnancy and the influence this has on oral health and the affect oral health status has on the baby. The role of nutrition is discussed, as well as the hazards of tobacco products. The dental hygienist has an important role in caring for the pregnant patient as well as being a resource for infant oral care.