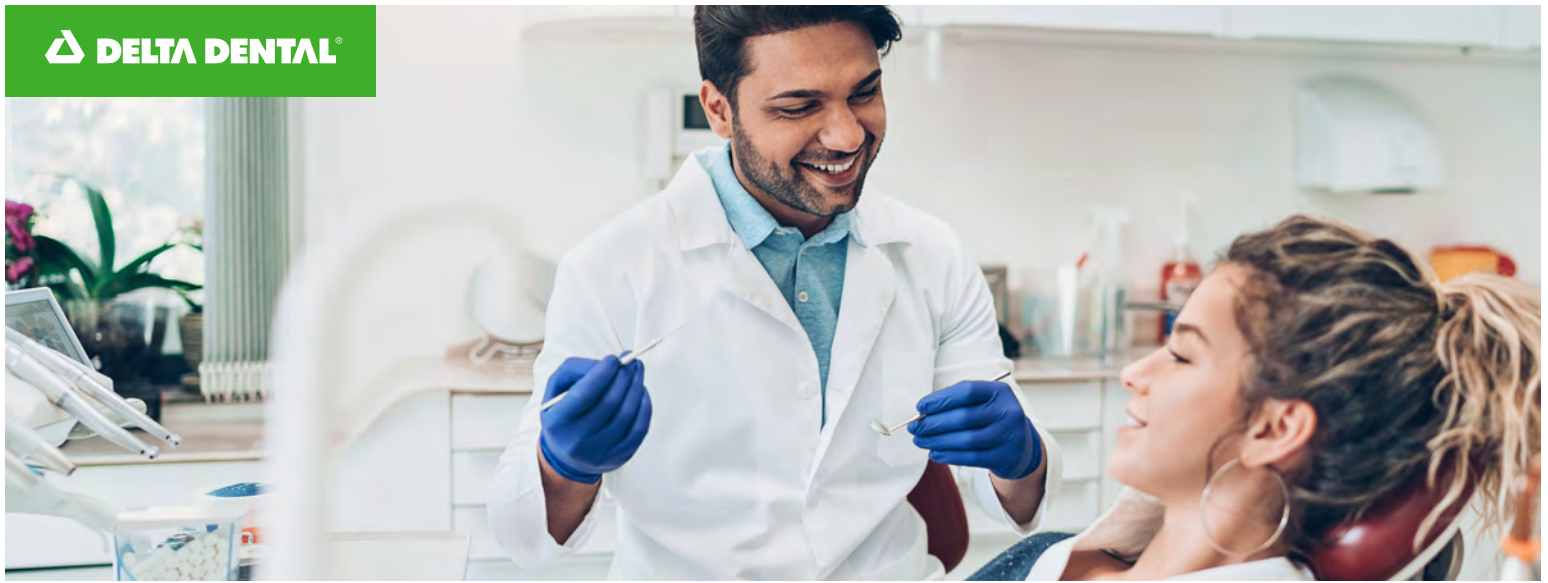




Health conditions and their effect on oral health

Your current overall health situation could have a strong impact on your oral health. Because of this, you may need to pay closer attention to your daily oral hygiene and make sure you are getting your regular dental exams. Below are just a few conditions that can have an effect. Ask your doctor or dentist for more information.

Diabetes

Gum disease may make it harder for you to manage your blood sugar. And poorly controlled diabetes can, in turn, lead to even worse tooth and gum problems. Diabetes makes it easier to get other kinds of mouth infections, too.

Kidney disease

If you have had a kidney transplant, you probably take anti-rejection medicine that helps suppress your immune system. This medicine can have serious side effects in your mouth including: sores in the lining of your mouth, thrush (a fungal infection that causes white patches in the mouth), periodontitis, dry mouth, oral cancer.

Asthma

Inhaled corticosteroids are one class of inhaled long-term asthma control medicine. In some people, inhaled corticosteroids may lead to hoarseness, cough, excessive thirst, dry mouth, or a fungal mouth infection called oral candidiasis.

Sjogren's syndrome

Sjögren's syndrome is a health condition where a person's immune system attacks certain parts of the body. It most often attacks the tear and saliva glands. This makes the glands stop working, and causes dry eyes and mouth.

Pregnancy

It is common for pregnant women to develop "pregnancy gingivitis." Gingivitis is an inflammation of the gums and surrounding tissues. It is characterized by redness, swelling, tenderness and bleeding. The primary cause is an increased level of hormones—especially estrogen and progesterone, which correlates with an increase in dental plaque (a sticky mixture of bacteria, food and debris).

HIV

Oral problems are very common in people with HIV. More than a third of people living with HIV have oral conditions that arise because of their weakened immune system. And even though combination antiretroviral therapy has made some oral problems less common, others are occurring more often with this type of treatment.

Sources
Delta Dental's Protect my Smile: <https://www.deltadental.com/us/en/protect-my-smile.html>



Ask your doctor or dentist how your health conditions affect your oral health.