



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

Activities of the Oral Health Program

The OHP has three courses listed on its website under the menu item **Non-CE Courses**. These include: **1) Risk Assessment for Dental Caries among Infants and Children by Pediatricians;** **2) Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain;** and **3) The Opioid Crisis and Orofacial Pain Management.** These courses may be found online at: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/27761.htm>. The courses are meant to be used as additional resources for information related to dentistry.

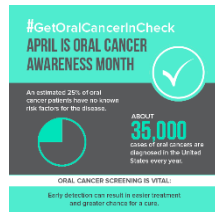
Continuing Education

The Oral Health Program has brought back Continuing Education courses using IN-TRAIN at no cost to the participants. The first course available is *Infection Control in Dental Facilities in Indiana*. Instructions are available on the Oral Health Program website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>. Please email questions to Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov.

Upcoming Events

The next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be 10 a.m. to noon Friday, June 7, at the Indiana State Department of Health, Fifth floor, Conference Room 5T.

Health Awareness Events As They Pertain To Dental Care



April is National Oral Cancer Awareness Month. It is important that both private individuals, and members of the dental community, realize that visits to the dentist are not just about cleanings, fillings, or crowns, but can actually be a matter of life and death. Oral examinations that include screenings for oral cancer saves lives. More information on Oral Cancer may be found on the following website:

<https://oralcancerfoundation.org/dental>

May is National Celiac Disease Awareness Month. In cases of silent celiac disease, sometimes dentists may be the first one to discover and diagnose the condition. Two common celiac symptoms, or conditions closely associated with celiac disease, include defects with your dental enamel and chronic, recurring canker sores. For more information on celiac disease visit the following website: <https://gluten.org/dental-health-and-celiac-disease>



June is National Scleroderma Awareness Month. Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma) sometimes affects the mouth, teeth, jaw, and gums. It can cause the mouth to shrink, tooth loss, mouth sores, dry mouth, and jaw pain in the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Scleroderma is rare and not everyone with scleroderma develops oral health problems related to it. So it may be difficult to find a dentist with experience in treating the oral health manifestations of scleroderma. For more information visit the following website: <https://www.sclero.org/scleroderma/symptoms/dental/a-to-z.html>





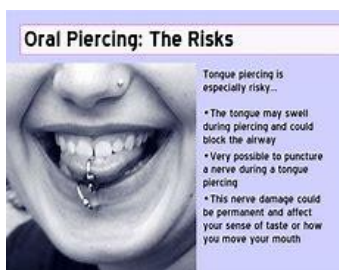
April 2019

ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:

Oral Piercings

Oral piercing is a small hole in the tongue, lip, cheek or uvula (the tiny tissue at the back of the throat) so people can wear jewelry. The jewelry may look cool, but the oral piercing and jewelry may present risks to good health. Piercings can cause bleeding and swelling, which if severe can be dangerous. Swelling of the tongue could potentially interfere with breathing. Also, the mouth contains many bacteria and infections can occur from oral piercings and jewelry. If a person has heart disease and the piercing allows bacteria to enter the bloodstream, it could reach the heart and potentially damage the heart valves.^{1,2}

It is important to understand the potential risks before deciding to have an oral piercing with jewelry. More information on this topic may be found at the links below:



Key Points of Oral Piercing:

✓ <https://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/oral-piercing>

How to Prevent Oral Piercing Complications

✓ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/piercings/art-20047317>

Tongue Piercing May Harm Teeth and Gums

✓ <https://www.webmd.com/oral-health/news/20180625/tongue-piercings-may-bring-harm-to-teeth-and-gums>

REFERENCES:

1. **What You Should Know.** WebMD. Retrieved 3/13/2019
2. **Oral Piercings.** ADA. Retrieved 3/13/2019

REMINDERS:

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the newsletter is suitable for the general public and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health. We welcome any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in this section. Suggestions may be made to Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov.

These newsletters are archived on the OHP website at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the section entitled **Newsletters**. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you.

Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please email Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov or Patty Morris at PMorris@isdh.IN.gov.

Disclaimer: The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.