

PRE-TRANSPLANT DENTAL EVALUATION

Why do I need to see a dentist?

The hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) you are planned to undergo will cause your blood counts to fall putting you at risk for infections. To reduce this risk, you will be evaluated and if necessary, treated for potential oral source of infection by your dentist.

What do I need to do?

You should see a dentist **as soon as possible** to get this process started so that any relevant oral health needs are taken care before your HSCT. You must have a dental evaluation, even if you have no teeth. Please make your latest blood counts available for your dentist to review.

If you do not have a dentist, consider the following options:

1. Ask someone you trust (such as a member of your family, a friend, or neighbor) to recommend a dentist in your community.
2. Search for a dentist in your area on the Massachusetts Dental Society website, www.massdental.org. Click on "Public Resources," then "Find a Dentist."

What if my platelets or white blood cell counts are low?

Even if your counts are low, it is still safe and beneficial to proceed with the dental evaluation, so please do not postpone making this appointment as this may delay your transplantation.

What should I expect from my dentist?

Bring the dental clearance form provided in the front pocket of this guide to your dentist. Alternatively, your dentist can download the form from <https://www.dana-farber.org/oral-medicine-and-oral-oncology/for-dental-professionals/>. Your dentist will perform a thorough examination and formulate a treatment plan. All areas of potential acute infection should be treated. Your dentist will need to complete the dental clearance form and return as directed in the guide.

Insurance coverage

As with any dental treatment, please check with your dentist to find out what will be covered and which payments you will be responsible for. If you do not have dental insurance, please discuss this with your oncology nurse and financial coordinator.