

Workshop 2 Pediatric Case Study

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Accessed from:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/primarycare/oralhealthprimarycare.pdf>

Patient and Family Profile

Tomas is the head of the household. He is a day laborer. He and his wife, Danita, have four children: 2-year-old Bella, 4-year-old Jacob, 9-year-old Jasper, and 13-year-old Maria. The mother brings the four children to the pediatric primary care office for initial routine physical examinations prior to starting the new school year and the day care center for the youngest child.

The family does not have dental insurance and the children have never been to the dental provider. They have income-based medical insurance that requires a copay, so the family limits health care visits to those required for the children, and they occasionally use the emergency room when they deem necessary.

History and Physical Examination

Present Medical History: The mother reports that all children have been well but that they are all picky eaters and prefer sweets before mealtime and always want dessert. The mother reports that she does not have control over their eating behaviors because of her work schedule and that the grandmother often feeds the children sugary snacks before she gets home. The children like cookies, candy, and other snacks that stick to the teeth, such as raisins and bananas.

Even though the mother tries to restrict candy in her home, the children frequently receive candy from their father and grandmother as rewards for good behavior.

Past Medical and Family History: The family is healthy and the children are up-to-date in immunizations with no chronic health issues. The family history is significant for type II diabetes mellitus in the maternal and paternal grandparents and one maternal aunt. Neither parent receives regular dental care, nor has been to the dentist in the past 5 years.

Social History: The family does not have dental insurance and cannot afford to pay for routine dental visits. All the children drink soda daily and the younger children drink a lot of juice each day. They participate in the free school breakfast and lunch program and their choices favor high-calorie starches. The children drink one glass of milk each day in the morning before leaving home. The children brush their teeth once a day without adult supervision. The family prefers to drink nonfluoridated bottled water over tap water.

Today's Examination Findings

The initial assessment reveals that all the children have a BMI between the 85th and 90th percentile.

The oral examination of each individual child reveals the following:

- Bella, the 2-year-old, has all 20 primary teeth erupted; they are free of white spots and there is no evidence of decay.



Figure 6. White spots on tooth surface

- Four-year-old Jacob's examination reveals white spots on the central incisors (enamel demineralization) and decayed areas on the lower molars.

Family Concerns

The mother is concerned about the family's ability to pay for dental services. The mother also states that her husband makes all decisions concerning family health care.

Dental Home: No dental home has been established.