

## Oral Health and Cerebral Palsy Nursing Interventions

Choose one oral health problem from the table below and plan nursing interventions for a patient with cerebral palsy.

Oral Health Problem	Example of Intervention	Student Intervention
Periodontal disease	Promote daily adaptive oral hygiene	
Dental caries	Develop caries prevention plan (e.g., diet, fluoride, sealant, inspect oral cavity for food pouching)	
Dysphagia	Allow sitting position at 45°; suction secretions	
Drooling	Recommend anticholinergics, Botox; suction as needed	
Bruxism	Recommend mouth guards	
Hyperactive bite and gag reflex	Schedule early morning appointment; use mouth prop; place head in neutral position	
Trauma & Injury	Instruct caregiver about tooth collection/saving; monitor for caregiver/abuse	
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	Position head at 45°	
Medication side effects (anticholinergics, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, anti-inflammatory)	Monitor and identify nursing interventions for xerostomia, gingival hyperplasia, bruxism	
Dental office environment	Modifications: wheelchair based-care, wheelchair transfer, upright positioning, protective stabilization equipment, lighting, scents, sounds, pre-visit interview	