

Caries (Decay) Risk Assessment Categories (ADA)

date:

Over 6 Years Old

name:

Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>None</u></p> Low [Optional fluoride varnish or gel]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>None</u> </p>
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Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1 or 2</u> OR →</p> Moderate [Fluoride varnish every 4-6 months. Fluoride paste and rinse at home]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u> </p>
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Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>3 or more</u> OR →</p> High [Fluoride varnish every 3-4 months. Rx Fluoride paste and chlorhexidine] [Xylitol candy & gum. Optional remineralizing paste, fluoride rinse]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>multiple</u> OR →</p> <u>xerostomia</u> (low saliva) or <u>low fluoride exposure</u>
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High Risk plus Dry Mouth or Special Needs [Fluoride varnish every 3 months. Rx Fluoride paste and chlorhexidine] Very High [Xylitol candy & gum. Remineralizing paste & fluoride rinse] [Acid neutralizing rinses and gum]

Under 6 Years Old

Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>None</u></p> Low [Optional fluoride varnish or gel]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>None</u> </p>
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Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> OR →</p> Moderate [Fluoride varnish every 6 months. Xylitol candy & gum if possible.]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u> </p>
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Incipient (early), cavitated or secondary lesions in last 3 years <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1 or more</u> OR →</p> High [Fluoride varnish every 3- 6 months. Xylitol candy & gum if possible.] [Remineralizing paste] [Home fluoride rinse & paste for high & mod if can. Watch over fluoride]	Factors that may increase caries risk <p style="text-align: center;"><u>multiple</u> OR →</p> ++ <u>xerostomia</u> (low saliva) or <u>low fluoride exposure</u> + <u>socioeconomic status</u>
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***Factors increasing risk of developing caries also may include, but are not limited to:**

- poor oral hygiene
- active orthodontic treatment
- presence of exposed root surfaces
- irregular dental care
- many multisurface restorations
- restoration overhangs and open margins
- poor family dental health
- cariogenic diet
- developmental or acquired enamel defects
- genetic abnormality of teeth
- chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- eating disorders
- drug or alcohol abuse
- high titers of cariogenic bacteria
- prolonged nursing (bottle or breast)
- physical or mental disability with inability or unavailability of performing oral health care

++Medication, radiation or disease-induced xerostomia

+ On the basis of findings from population studies, groups with low socioeconomic status have been found to have an increased risk of developing caries. In children too young for their risk to be based caries history, low socioeconomic status should be considered as a caries risk factor.