

Frequent Oral Care Is Important

Three of the Risk Factors for VAP¹:

1. Colonization of dental plaque with respiratory pathogens
2. Bacterial colonization of the oropharyngeal area
3. Aspiration of subglottic secretions*

* Routine suctioning minimizes oral secretions which can migrate to the subglottic area.



1. B. Schleder, et al., "The Effect of a Comprehensive Oral Care Protocol on Patients at Risk for Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia," Journal of Advocate Health Care, 4(1):27-30, Spring/Summer 2002.