



Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

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What is fetal alcohol syndrome?

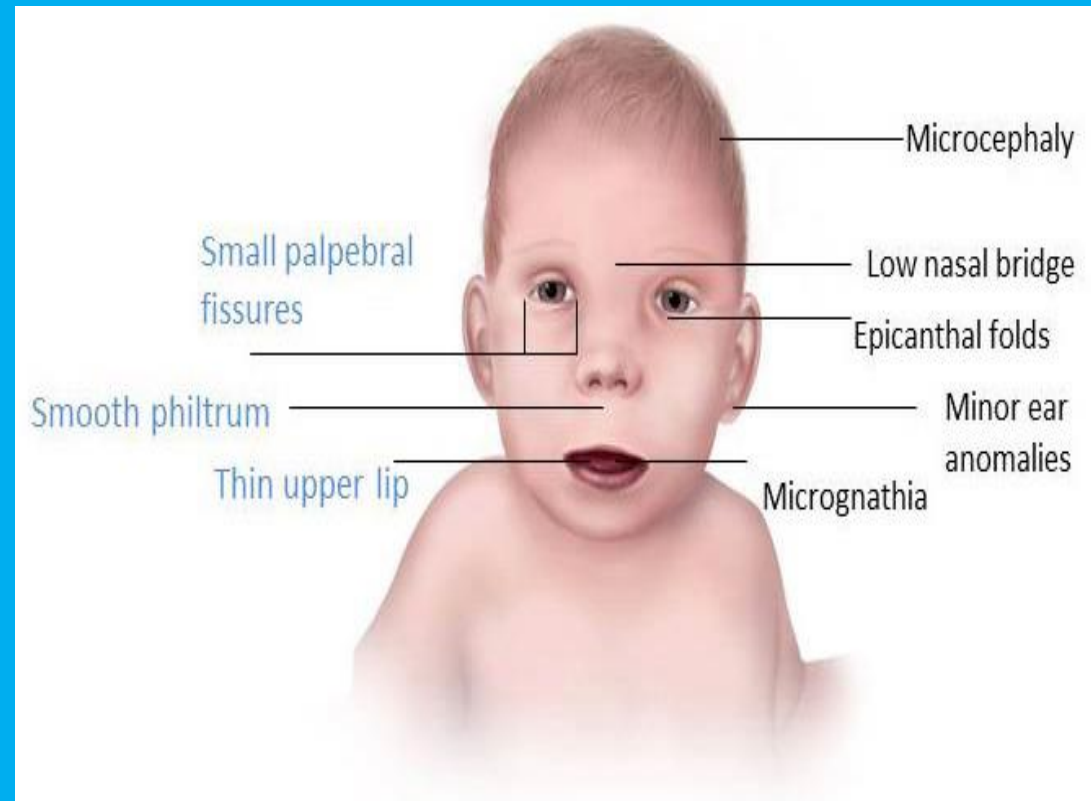
- It is one of the many developmental disturbances in a fetus during the embryonic period, which results from alcohol ingestion by a pregnant woman
- May result in prenatal and postnatal growth deficiency, intellectual deficiency, and other anomalies

- A fetus is exposed to alcohol as it easily passes across the placenta
- During the first trimester of pregnancy, which is the greatest risk period, the face and organs of the fetus are forming. Since it is the early stage of pregnancy, mother may not realize that she is pregnant and consume alcohol



Abnormal Characteristics of FAS

- Small head circumference
- Low nasal bridges
- Short nose
- Small midface
- Widely spaced eyes
- Epicanthic folds
- Eyelid fissures
- Indistinct philtrum
- Thin upper lip





Dental problems associated with FAS

- Missing or misaligned teeth
- Malocclusion
- Crowding of the dentition
- late loss of primary teeth and late eruption of permanent teeth
- Mouth breathing
- Anterior Open bite
- Gingivitis
- Cleft lip/palate
- May have unusual behavioral patterns and tissue and physical sensitivities that make dental treatment difficult

Roles of dental hygienist

- Review the medical history carefully
- Patients with FAS are visual and needs to be hands on, so it is helpful to use visual aids and thorough demonstration for proper techniques of flossing and brushing
- Make the appointment at the quietest time of the day
- Make treatment less traumatic and help them reduce fear of the Unknown