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## Definition of Dental Disability

### Originating Committee

Child Abuse Committee

### Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

### Adopted

1983

### Reaffirmed

1996, 2003

### Revised

1992, 2000, 2008, 2012, 2017

Dental caries, periodontal disease, dentoalveolar trauma, and other ~~oral conditions~~ orofacial pathological conditions, left untreated, can limit substantially ~~a child's~~ an individual's development and quality of life ~~an individual's participation in life activities~~. ~~An individual should be considered to have a dental disability if pain, infection, or lack of stable and functional dentition:~~

- ~~• Restricts nutritional intake necessary for growth and energy needs.~~
- ~~• Delays or otherwise alters growth and development.~~
- ~~• Inhibits participation in life activities.~~
- ~~• Diminishes quality of life.~~

Therefore, an individual should be considered to have a dental disability if orofacial pain, infection, pathological condition, and/or lack of functional dentition affect nutritional intake, growth and development, or participation in life activities.