

**Recognizing the Signs:
A Guide to Ectodermal Dysplasia for the Oral Health Professional**

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Background: Ectodermal Dysplasia (ED) are disorders that affect at least two structures derived from the ectoderm (skin, sweat glands, hair, teeth, and nails).

Objectives: This literature review aims to increase recognition of ED in oral health professionals by describing characteristics of ED; identifying treatment options and their outcomes; explaining how care of ED patients changes across the lifespan; and highlighting the importance of ED awareness to the dental hygiene process of care.

Methods: This literature review used PubMed and DOSS databases. Inclusion criteria were peer-reviewed, written in English, published within the last ten years, and included keywords were developed with the aid of a dental librarian.

Results: Twenty-three articles met the criteria. Research themes included treatment modifications by age; clinical presentation; early treatment options; and preparation for surgical/non-surgical interventions.

Discussion: Ectodermal Dysplasia does not present the same for every patient, resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment. Optimal oral health outcomes are achieved through early intervention and regular preventative dental care, much of which is encompassed within the dental hygiene scope of practice. Even with successful treatment, oral health care of patients with Ectodermal Dysplasia must be monitored closely due to changes that occur over the lifespan.

Conclusion: Oral health professionals play a key role in early diagnosis, treatment, and maintenance over these patients' lifetime, and are instrumental in ensuring optimal outcomes of treatment, and maintaining these results.