Caries—Risk Analysis

Low Risk
No carious lesions in 36 months, adequate home care, fluoride, infrequent meals, no orthodontic appliances, no dry mouth

Moderate Risk
One or two lesions in 36 months, ineffective plaque removal, interproximal restorations present, exposed roots may or may not be present, orthodontic appliances, dry mouth

High Risk
3 or more lesions in 36 months, missing teeth due to decay, exposed root surfaces, overhangs or open margins on restorations, dry mouth, bad contacts, visible plaque, poor oral hygiene

Adapted from publications on risk factors produced by the California Dental Association and the American Dental Association
Additional Factors
that may increase caries risk

- Poor family dental health
- Cariogenic diet
- Irregular dental care
- Developmental or acquired enamel defects
- Chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Physical or mental disability; not able to perform proper oral care

How many of your patients have at least two of these risk factors?

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