

Category	Method of administration	1	2	3
Voice	Converse with patient. Listen to crying.	Normal	Deeper or raspy	Difficulty talking, crying or painful.
Swallow	Ask patient to swallow.	Normal swallow	Some pain on swallowing.	Unable to swallow.
Lips and corner of the mouth	Observe and feel tissue.	Smooth and pink and moist.	Dry or cracked.	Ulcerated or bleeding.
Tongue	Observe appearance of tissue.	Pink and moist and papillae present.	Coated or loss of papillae with a shiny appearance with or without redness Fungal infection	Blistered or cracked.
Saliva	Observe consistency and quality of saliva or insert depressor into mouth, touching centre of the tongue and the floor of the mouth.	Watery Excess salivation due to teething	Thick or ropy	Absent
Mucous Membrane	Observe the appearance of the tissue	Pink and moist	Reddened or coated without ulceration. Fungal infection	Ulceration with or without bleeding.
Gingivae	Gently press tissue with a gloved finger	Pink and firm Oedema due to teething	Oedematous with or without redness, smooth.	Spontaneous bleeding or bleeding with pressure
Teeth (If no teeth score as 1)	Visual Observe appearance of teeth	Clean and no debris	Plaque or debris in localised areas (between teeth if present)	Plaque or debris generalised along gum line

Oral Assessment Guide Adapted and reprinted from Eilers, J. Berger, A. and Petersen, M. (1988).

Category	Method of assessment	1	2	3
Swallow	Ask the child to swallow or observe the swallowing process. Ask the parent if there are any notable changes.	Normal. Without difficulty	Difficulty in swallowing	Unable to swallow at all. Pooling, dribbling of secretions
Lips and corner of mouth	Observe appearance of tissue	Normal. Smooth, pink and moist	Dry, cracked or swollen	Ulcerated or bleeding
Tongue	Observe the appearance of the tongue using a pen-torch to illuminate the oral cavity	Normal. Firm without fissures (cracking or splitting) or prominent papilla. Pink and moist	Coated or loss of papillae with a shiny appearance with or without redness and/or oral <i>Candida</i>	Ulcerated, sloughing or cracked
Saliva	Observe consistency and quality of saliva	Normal. Thin and watery	Excess amount of saliva, drooling	Thick, ropy or absent
Mucous membrane	Observe the appearance of tissue using a pen-torch to illuminate the oral cavity	Normal. Pink and moist	Reddened or coated without ulceration and/or oral <i>Candida</i>	Ulceration and sloughing, with or without bleeding
Gingivae	Observe the appearance of tissue using a pen-torch to illuminate the oral cavity	Normal. Pink or coral with a stippled (dotted) surface. Gum margins tight and well defined, no swelling.	Oedematous with or without redness, smooth	Spontaneous bleeding
Teeth (If no teeth score 1)	Observe the appearance of teeth using a pen-torch to illuminate the oral cavity	Normal. Clean and no debris	Plaque or debris in localised areas	Plaque or debris generalised along gum line
Voice	Talk and listen to the child. Ask the parent if there are any notable changes	Normal tone and quality when talking or crying	Deeper or raspy	Difficult to talk, cry or not talking at all

NB if score >8 introduce pain assessment instrument

Oral assessment guide-Adapted from Eilers et al. (1988) by the mouth care working party at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust (2005).
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Category	Method	Numerical and descriptive rating		
		1	2	3
Voice	Converse with the patient	Normal	Deep or rasping	Difficulty talking or painful
Lips	Observe	Smooth and pink	Dry or cracked, and/or angular cheilitis	Ulcerated or bleeding
Mucous membranes	Observe	Pink and moist	Red, dry and/or areas with coating	Blisters or ulceration with or without bleeding
Dentures remove	Use light and mouth mirror			
Tongue	Observe Use light and mouth mirror	Pink, moist and papillae present	Dry, red, no papillae present	Blisters or ulceration with or without bleeding
Gums	Observe Use light and mouth mirror	Pink and firm	Edematous and/or red	Bleeding spontaneously
Teeth	Observe Use light and mouth mirror	Clean, no plaque or debris	(1) Plaque or debris in local areas (2) Decayed teeth	Plaque or debris generalized
Dentures	Observe	Clean and functioning	(1) Plaque or debris (2) Function badly	Not used
Saliva	Slide a mouth mirror along the buccal mucosa	No friction between the mouth mirror and mucosa	Slightly increased friction, no tendency for the mirror to adhere to the mucosa	Significantly increase friction, the mirror adhering or tending to adhere to the mucosa
Swallow	Ask the patient to swallow Observe Ask the patient	Normal swallow	Some pain or difficulty on swallowing	Unable to swallow

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