Chemotherapy Agents

**Methotrexate**
- **Uses:** Cancer and rheumatoid arthritis
- **Complications:** Mouth ulcers, methotrexate fog

**Cyclophosphamide**
- **Uses:** Cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus and scleroderma
- **Complications:** Sores in the oral cavity and skin color change

Biotherapy Agents

**Rituximab**
- **Uses:** Cancer, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis
- **Complications:** Sores on lips and oral cavity, pustules, blisters and peeling skin

**Belimumab**
- **Use:** Systemic lupus erythematosus
- **Complications:** Risk of infections, allergic reaction, swelling of mouth, tongue and throat

Oral Mucositis

- **Normal, healthy mouth**
- **Mild oral mucositis**
- **Moderate oral mucositis**

Role of Dental Hygienist

- Suggest mouthwash containing lidocaine or salt water rinse
- Accurate evaluation and early management
- Increase hydration
- Avoid alcohol
- Appropriate oral hygiene education
- Salivary substitutes
- Oral cryotherapy
- Cleaning of teeth and dentures twice a day with soft bristle toothbrush

Conclusion

Dental hygienists play a pivotal role before, during and after the chemo and bio therapy thus making a marked difference in treatment management and improved quality of life of the patients.
References


