

Dental Care is a Substantial Unachieved Healthcare Need for Paediatric Age with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract -Dental care is a consequential health issue in paediatric patients with ASD. This occurs due to the self-injurious behaviors (SIBs). Due to increased hypersensitivity, it is difficult in brushing. It is difficult for the ASD children to communicate their dental problems due to issues in communication. Parents should show a positive attitude. They should determine the cognitive abilities of the child to communicate. Regular dental checkups are needed. Dental clinics, staff, timings should be the same as child's sensory hypersensitivity should be considered.

Key words: autism spectrum disorder, dental care, hypersensitivity.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental syndrome characterized by subtle disorder in terms of communication, such as speech, social interaction, using language and abstract concept, increased sensitivity, and found difficulty to acclimatize in the environment and have repetitive behavior. This neurocognitive disorder has deformities in cerebellum and limbic system, showing an extensive systemic and behavioral symptom. In its attribute findings there are reduced number of purkinje cells in the posterior-inferior area of the cerebellum, curtail in the dendritic tree development of neurons in the limbic system and hypoplasia of nuclei of VI & VII cranial nerves¹.

Children with ASD may present with dental disorders. Its manifestations include bruxism, self-injurious behaviors (SIBs) such as picking at the gums, biting lips, or creating ulcerations².

Difficulty in brushing of teeth due to increased sensory sensitivity.

It is difficult for ASD children to relay problems of their teeth because of their lacking deportment, resulting in delay in care.

Establishing an accustomed routine with dental care at a young age is recommended.

- Interdental cleaning should begin as soon as the first tooth comes in.
- Teaching the child how to use floss.
- Taking the child to the dentist regularly.
- Monitoring the quality of child's diet.
- Positive parental attitude³.
- Determine the cognitive abilities of the child to know how to communicate.
- Avoid prolonged use of bottles, reduce amounts and frequency of sugar consumed².
- Children with ASD may find it difficult to visit a dental clinic due to bright fluorescent lights, loud noises from equipment's and people due to hypersensitivity⁴.
- Dental trips can be successful by using the same staff, dental operative and appointment time.
- Repetition of instructions numerous times. Positive reinforcement for better results.
- Parents need to keep patience.
- The genealogy should be caring, empathetic and aware of how to communicate with ASD patients to make their visit to tooth jerker successful.
- Appointments should be short, well organized and planned to avoid perturb behavior of the patient, as these patients are very sensitive and have a very limited attention span.
- To manage the ASD child, tell-show-do all the dental instruments and equipment or procedure is an effective therapy.
- Many children with ASD perceive through vision. Visual learning succor in reducing the apprehension and helps in considerate the sequence of dental procedures.
- As each child with ASD, a thorough consideration about each child is obligatory for the dentist and the assistants.
- Parents should have knowledge about the treatment and rehabilitation given to their child.

- Parents should handle the child with ASD emotionally as emotional skills are more effective than intellectual and clinical skills².

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