

# Interdisciplinary collaboration between Dentistry and Applied Behavioral Analysis for IDD population



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## INTRODUCTION

Dental care is the most common unmet need for children/adolescents/adults with special health care needs. Among many barriers to treatment belongs anxiety, fear, challenging behavior and high sensory issues. The low compliance may result in delaying of treatments and increase in need for treatments under General Anesthesia. Collaboration between Dental services and Apply Behavioral Analysis (ABA) teams can open doors to increase the comfort and cooperation leading to improve patient outcomes.

## MATERIALS & METHODS

We collected data from the Behavioral Intake Form filled out by dental providers to analyze potential need for ABA intervention. We identified patients with high risk for challenging and combative behavior when exposed to dental environments. We identified patients based on behaviors outside and inside of dental rooms, reports of pain, and needs for sedation or general anesthesia.

## Patient Population

The Pilot study included 30 adult patients with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability age between 18-99 who arrived for New Patient Exam to Complex Care Center (CCC), University of Rochester between June-December 2024.

## Complex Care Center (CCC)

Sensory Adapted Dental Environmental Clinic

Welcome to the new Complex Care Center.

The UR Medicine Complex Care Center (CCC) is a comprehensive resource for adults with childhood onset health conditions.

Conveniently located at 905 Culver Road, the CCC fills a vital healthcare need in the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes regions, which currently have no centralized healthcare service for patients ages 19 and older with chronic health conditions.

If you or someone you care for has a unique healthcare need, our highly experienced, professional team at the CCC is dedicated to providing the best possible primary care and other clinical services.

Supported by a grant from:

Health Foundation

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (585) 276-7900 or visit [ccc.urmc.edu](http://ccc.urmc.edu).

UR Medicine Complex Care Center  
905 Culver Road, Rochester, NY 14609

Free, accessible parking is available directly outside our building.

Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Insurance and Referrals: Please contact us to schedule an appointment. We accept most major insurances; patients should refer to their plan's coverage. All co-payments are due at time of service. For added convenience we accept cash, check and all major credit cards.

Complex Care Center

Providing access to a wide range of healthcare services in one convenient location.



UR MEDICINE  
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## Behavioral Intake Form

- Implemented into dental records at CCC clinic.
- Collects details about behavioral challenges for IDD adults.
- Helps dental providers to identify patients needing support from ABA services
- All collected information will reflect on future visits.
- ABA will help establish specific environmental accommodations for safety and create a guide for sensory accommodations.


## What is ABA?


- ABA therapy, or Applied Behavior Analysis, is a science-based approach to improve behavior.
- ABA therapy is often used to help individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other IDD to improve essential life skills, social and communication skills, and behavior.


## Results


1. We found that 50% of new patients suffers from low comfort during dental visits.
2. Specific issues found such as problems to sit at dental chair, tolerating recline of chair, tolerating instruments.
3. 2/3 of all patients don't tolerate X-rays upon this initial visit.
4. 50% of patients suffer from self-injury behavior
5. Over 1/3 expressed some signs of challenging behavior prior entering dental room.


## Dental intake form for behavior


 Legal guardianship


 Communication

 Transitions

 Challenging behavior

 Behavior at dental room

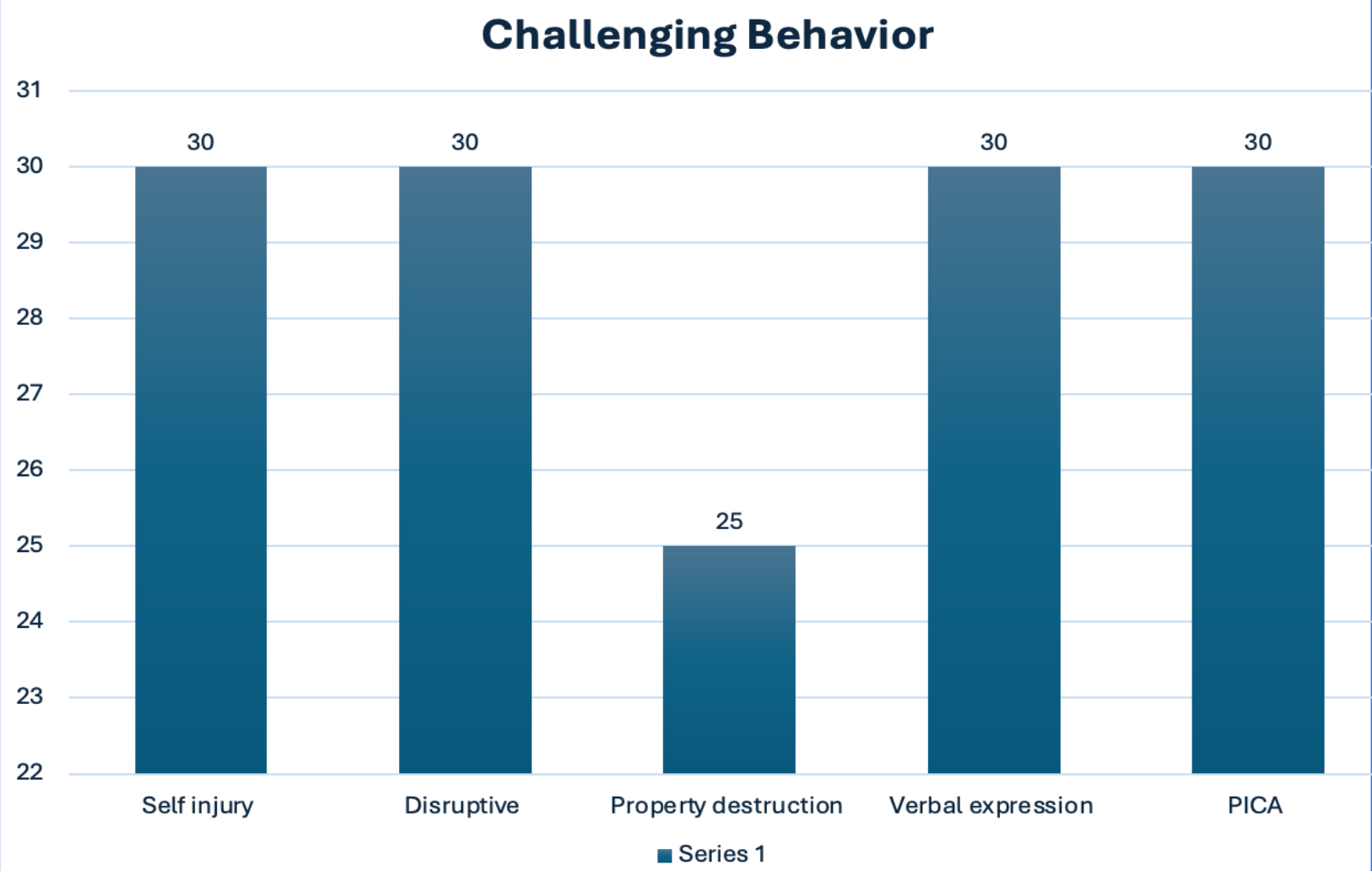
 Communication of pain and discomfort

 Sensory issues

## Examples of challenging behaviours

- Self-injurious behavior (head banging, self-biting, etc.)
- Aggressive to others
- Disruptive (yelling, running, banging)
- Property destruction (damage, or theft)
- Pica (swallowing non-food items)
- Elopement (running away from room/clinic)
- Verbal aggression
- Emesis/rumination
- Ritualistic behavior
- Dangerous (break glass, touch electrical sockets, etc.)

## Results



## Conclusion

Overall, we collected data that supports the important role and need for ABA services for at least of 50% of new patients who will benefit from collaboration between ABA and dentistry.

