



Management of Special Needs Patients in Dentistry:

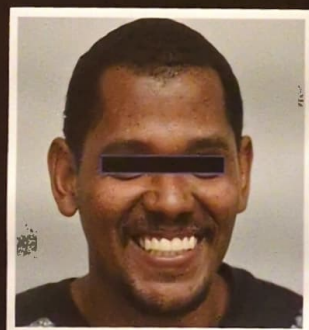
Case of a Patient with Cognitive Developmental Disorder and Autism

Estopinales-Paredes, Adrian¹; Avila-López Aaron¹; Ortiz-Bernard, Gabriela¹; Rabelo, Rodríguez, Yariel¹;

Hernández-González, Juan¹; Encarnación-Ginés, Yatee²; Arroyo-Juliá, Alice M.²

¹PGY-2, General Practice Residency, School of Dental Medicine, University of Puerto Rico

²Faculty, General Practice Residency, School of Dental Medicine, University of Puerto Rico



INTRODUCTION

Cognitive Developmental Disorder (CDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are conditions that can significantly impact dental care. Individuals with CDD and ASD often face unique challenges in a dental setting, including heightened anxiety, sensory sensitivities, and communication difficulties. These challenges can make routine dental visits stressful and may lead to avoidance of care, resulting in potential oral health issues. Dental professionals need to adopt specialized approaches, such as using clear communication, creating a calm environment, and utilizing behavior management techniques, to ensure a positive and effective dental experience for these patients.

CASE REPORT

Case of a 31-year-old male patient with Cognitive Developmental Disorder and Autism.

Treatment Proposed:

- Crowns and bridges
- Endodontic Procedures

To manage the patient's dental needs, the **Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)** technique was used as an antimicrobial agent within the root canals.

- This technique has been noted for its effectiveness in preventing caries progression and managing infections without invasive procedures.

The case demonstrates that with appropriate techniques and adjustments, complex dental treatments can be provided safely and effectively to patients with cognitive and developmental disorders, without the need for physical restraint or sedation.



CONCLUSIONS

- This case highlights the effectiveness of a compassionate, patient-centered approach in providing dental care to individuals with Cognitive Developmental Disorder and Autism.
- By utilizing minimally invasive techniques like Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) and prioritizing tailored communication and environmental adjustments, the dental team successfully managed complex treatments without the need for physical restraint or sedation.
- This case underscores the importance of individualized care plans and behavioral management strategies, demonstrating that, with the right approach, dental treatments can be safely and effectively performed for special needs patients, thereby promoting their long-term oral health and well-being.

REFERENCES

1. Cibattoni, S., D'Alessandro, G., Sadun, G., & Piana, G. (2021). Oral health status and oral health-related quality of life in Italian special needs adults. *Special Care in Dentistry*, 41(3), 373-380. <https://doi.org/10.1111/scd.12550>
2. Hwang, H. Y., & Chou, Y. Y. (2014). Characteristics of dental treatments for children with developmental disabilities: A nationwide case-control study. *BMC Oral Health*, 14(1), 13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6831-14-13>
3. Karaiskos, N., Thanassas, T., & Tsiachlari, A. (2018). Non-Pharmacological Approaches to Behavioural Management of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders during Dental Treatment: A Systematic Review. *European Archives of Paediatric Dentistry*, 19(6), 383-391. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40368-018-0370-4>
4. Gattuso, A., Pardo, A., Martinez, A., & Fejoo, J. F. (2014). Behavioural intervention to facilitate desensitisation and delivery of dental care to a patient with autism and severe anxiety: A case report with 5-year follow-up. *Journal of Disability and Oral Health*, 18(2), 47-51.
5. Hwang, H. Y., Hsu, C. P., & Hsu, M. M. (2014). Oral health and treatment needs of preschool children with autism spectrum disorders. *Pediatric Dentistry*, 30(5), 482-488.