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Management of Autistic Patients in the Dental Setting: Behavioral Approaches and Recommendations

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Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopment disability notable through major impairment in communication skills, social interactions and cyclic stereotypes of behaviors [Patill et al, 2016]. Boys are at higher risk of developing Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) than the girls, the ratio of 4.6: 1 has been reported on the gender-specific epidemiology of autism spectrum disorders. Common in siblings and twins of those with autism [Freitag,2007]. The symptomatology of ASD starts before the age of 3 (Jaber,2011). Marked impairment in the use of multiple non-verbal communications, difficulties to develop social relationships. difficulties in sharing experiences and feelings, delay or complete lack of verbal development as well as strict adherence to rituals (Totsika et al,2011), with possibly coexisting sensory disabilities, mental retardation or epilepsy (Barbaresi et al,2006). With the increase of the diagnostic cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the dental management became a challenging. Dentist need be alert to different behavioral and therapeutic techniques that required to ensure safe dental treatments for affected patients. Dental care of an autistic child requires comprehensive understanding of the background of the autism, the fears and the preferences of the parents as well as the medical and dental history of each patient should be considered. The objectives of the topic: 1- is to develop a better understanding of characteristic of ASD patients. 2- is to make the dental appointment less aggressive for the patient with ASD. 3- is to emphasize on the importance of collecting data on the patient's medical and dental history, as well as possible comorbidities and medications in use.

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