

## Poster journal

### Understanding the 'Misunderstood'. An Enigma called AUTISM

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#### Commentary:

It is not very often do we as experienced clinicians realize that no matter what our level of experience is, every child is completely unique and oftentimes, these children have immense potential to teach us something different everyday<sup>1</sup>. There is fierce dearth of available literature or knowledge per se amongst dental surgeons to render services to the children with Autism, neither is much effort taken for the same for the oral health services of children with Autism by the parents, Special Educators, Therapists. The basic reason could be due to the sensory and behavioral issues being prioritized and the lack of any sort of awareness in hygiene measures or diet counseling putting this utmost important domain of health in the backseat. This poster aims to illustrate few of the means by which complete oral health in these children can also be accomplished.

Fear of needle or sound of a bur makes a child go through 'wars' while seated on a dental chair<sup>2,3</sup>. Antecedal short 'easy' dental visits towards acclimatization to the dental environment are thus recommended. These simple preliminary visits can act as an opportunity to provide more practically implementable goals in prevention of dental caries as early as possible. This initiative not only support parents by providing an emotional anchorage to sail through the process but eases their concerns as well as answer their queries but also is more beneficial for potentially high caries risk group of children with Autism<sup>1</sup>. Oral acceptance of toothbrush, food etc is very important for the oral health of a child with Autism. This can be enabled by having a deep sense of awareness of their sensory requirements and an approach compatible with their behavior.

A compilation of few such approaches are info graphically illustrated in the poster with brief notes on them.

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